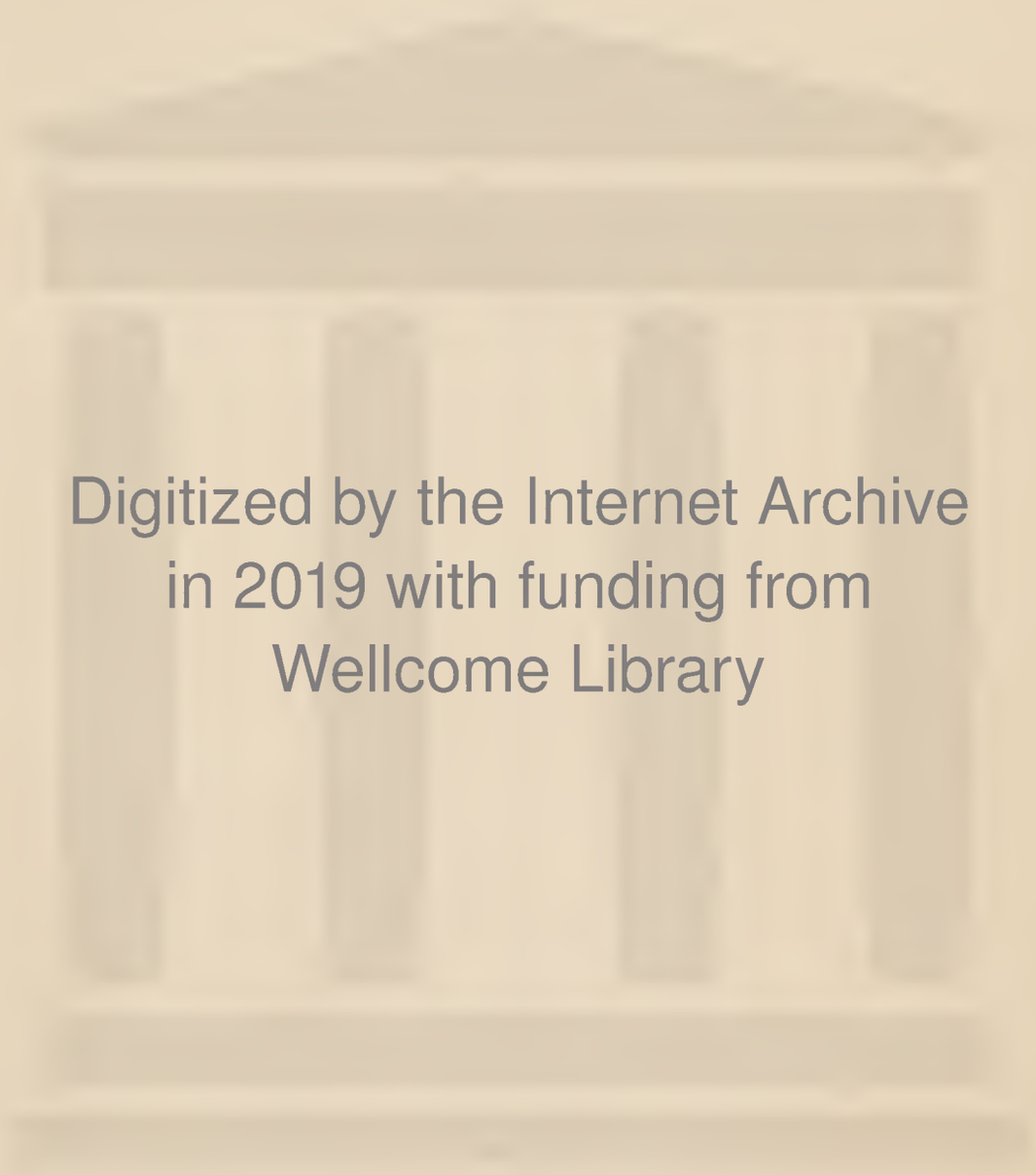
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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

&c. &c.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.



LONDON:

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PREFACE.

After twenty-eight weeks friendly acquaintance with the public, the Medical Adviser stands forward in the form and dignity of a volume: and the Editor feels no small satisfaction in thus formally presenting to that public an esteemed friend, who has received such liberal encouragement from it. It is a pleasing office; and in so doing, he avails himself of his privilege to offer a few words in explanation of the intentions and dispositions of his protegé.

The plan with which the Medical Adviser set out, was, in the first place, to open to the public a source from which it might derive scientific medical advice, without being either enormously mulcted or empyrically duped. This object has been attained so far as could be expected, fully testified by numerous correspondents from all parts of the empire. In the second place, its intent was, to diffuse useful knowledge in all branches of science connected with the animal economy, divested of unintelligible technicalities and fatiguing pro-

lixity :—for this the work itself will speak. In the third place, to comment upon all public affairs which lie within the province of the Physician; and in this it has already atchieved a considerable object, namely, the turning of public attention to the abuses of the TREAD-MILL, and thereby ameliorating the condition of an unhappy class of people. In the last place, the intent was to attack QUACKERY at its root; and here also it has been successful; for, when the MEDICAL ADVISER began its career the hydra was raging with unchecked rapacity, undermining the dearest possession of a simple and confiding portion of the public—devouring their life's blood—yet the monster shorn of many of its heads and stabbed in its most vital part, instead of mounting high and insolent, now drags its wounded length along, and looks with the yellowness of despair upon its speedy and certain destruction. Another session of parliament, it is to be hoped, will put an end to Quackery, for there is a petition, presented by Mr. Hobhouse, now in the house. The people's eyes have been opened to the dangers arising from the Quacks, and these impostors feel that their revenues are diminished. They are writhing and threatening, flattering and fawning—every fibre is at work to check the power of the MEDICAL ADVISER, and one of their most forward and hopeful exertions was a prosecution against the Publishers for damages, and an indictment against the Printer. The measure is half abortive already, for the bill of indictment was thrown out by the grand jury!

The plan of the work was original; its execution pleased, and thus has it been pre-eminently successful. This success

was the occasion of forming against it no less than four opposition publications, all of which have failed: the Editor, therefore, feels fully the honor which the public has done to the work in thus supporting it, and he pledges himself to the best interests of that public, not only in the conduct of its columns, but also in affording private advice to every individual who may feel disposed to ask it.

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THE

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AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 1.] SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1823. [Price 3d.



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IMPORTANT

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

UPON

THE TREAD-MILL.

As applied to Females at Coldbath Fields.

(Authentically communicated.)

NOTWITHSTANDING the excitement which the introduction of the Tread-mill occasioned in the public mind, and the consequent enquiries which have taken place, it is, indeed, surprising that the most considerable abuse of that machine should, up to this moment, have escaped notice, with the exception of some pointed animadversions in the "John Bull" newspaper, namely, its cruel and odious application to females! We are happy thus upon our outset, to be the means of laying before the public important information upon this subject, assured as we are, that it is only to be known, to interest every man in the common cause of humanity; and more particularly in the protection which nature imposes upon them to the unfortunate and forlorn of the female sex.

At the house of correction, Coldbath Fields, females were put to work at the Treadmill on the 17th of July 1822, which was the day the machine commenced, in that prison, and they have

continued at it ever since, with the exception of a remission of two months in the autumn of that year, and a like period this year, which took place in consequence of a greater number of male prisoners than those appropriated for the other wheels, being then in the jail.

Two yards, with a wheel capable of employing from forty to fifty each, are appropriated for females—one for felons, and the other for misdemeanors, chiefly what are called "*idle and disorderly*"—a term so vague, that almost any individual may come under its construction, according to the opinion of a magistrate, and to the degree of credence he reposes in the flippant oath of a common street informer.

The wheel is a cylinder of twenty-four steps placed at the distance of one foot and a half from each other. This rotates in a uniform motion; and as it moves round, the step on which the foot stands descends, while the next presents itself—and so on for the whole circle; so that the prisoner is thus compelled to ascend each step, or obliged to hang by the hand-rail, which is parallel with the head. It is the action of going up stairs; but the steps are more distant from each other, and more steep than in our ordinary stairs. The prisoners work from seven in the morning until five in the evening, in summer; and during the whole time of day light in winter. Out of this time they are allowed one hour for breakfast, and two for dinner. The usual complement for each division of the wheel is twelve; and they work nine on and three off. Each prisoner, in her turn, performs 864 steps, and then descends; one of those who are down, taking her place: she then rests while the others perform 288 steps, when she again ascends to perform 864 steps—and so on. Sometimes, however, they work seven on, and five off, which gives them a longer time to rest: but this is casual, and it is not in what may happen by accidental circumstances, that the labour of the wheel is to be examined: we are to view it in its full extent, as the magisterial committee fixes it. And it cannot be denied that one magistrate (Bevill) in particular visits the prison almost daily for the purpose of seeing that the wheel is worked, as he officially says, "*in due form.*" *

In the action of stepping upon the wheel the principal part of the labour is thrown on the *gastrochnimii* muscles or those of the calf of the leg. They run down into a tendon which is firmly attached to the *os calcis* or heel bone; and upon this little bone moves the whole weight of the body. Independent of the great disparity which exists between the two sexes in point of general strength, if we consider that the muscles forming the calves of the legs, are, in proportion to the weight of the body, possessing much less power than in the male, from the natural largeness of the hips, thighs and breast, as well as from the quantity of adipose matter with which the female body is furnished, to give it that roundness it possesses; and if we also consider, that from the size of the hips, the thigh bones describe a much greater angle to the knee, and consequently are rendered less capable of action, we must naturally conclude that such labour as the Tread-mill produces, will affect the female *so much more than the male.* Thus we see her condemned to suffer a *greater* degree of punishment than our own sex, for the *same* quantum of offence—a being not only much weaker in bodily strength, but infinitely more so in the mind, which produces the crime. And what nourishment have those unhappy females to support them in this excessive labour? a pound and a quarter of bread, a pint of thin gruel, and a pint of soup daily, which soup is substituted three days in the week for six ounces of tough indigestible meat, and one day in the week (Saturday) for a pint of gruel. This must fall heavily upon the strength and spirits of women who when at liberty live so much better, and so very differently. Money or friends cannot alter their diet, for the magistrates will not permit them to receive

* We are assured that this worthy magistrate once going his rounds of the prison, asked the turnkey why the wheel had not more hands (females) upon it, and being told that they had no more in the jail, he replied,—'O! very well, I'll soon give you enough,' and forthwith sent two coaches full of females from Clerkenwell prison. (*Ed.*)

assistance in that way. Now let us consider a more important point.

The labour of the Tread-mill, from its peculiar action, is calculated to bring on *certain illnesses* to which females are *exclusively subject*, even in the most robust, occasionally, but always in those who are predisposed in their systems, but too often the case with the class of unhappy women who are consigned to a prison. Exposed to the operations of grief, cold, and sudden change of living—taken perhaps out of a damp watch-house, in which they had been night or two without food, and under the effects of spirituous liquor, they become debilitated in a greater degree than males under similar circumstances, and, in that state, they are put to work. From this proceeds still greater debility, which consequently effects those *illnesses* above alluded to: broken constitutions follow, and although the unfortunate woman outlive the period of her imprisonment, she probably ends her days by disease of which this is the cause. In reply, it will be said, that surgeons of prisons ought to except from labour, females, at certain periods, and under certain illnesses. This they do to the utmost of their power, and it, of course, renders the punishment less rigorous, less dangerous, and less shameful: but it is not always that they can prevent occurrences the most pitiable. A woman may go to work in the morning apparently well, and from the action of this labour alone become suddenly affected as above mentioned. She cannot speak to the turnkey,* or rather she *will not*, (from motives of delicacy,) but continues to work *until it can no longer be concealed!* This has occurred, yet it had not the effect of drawing the attention of the magistrates to the impropriety of the punishment. We know that those illnesses are frequently preceded, or followed by dimness of sight, giddiness of the head, and general hysterical affections; and hence it is common to see women *fall suddenly off the wheel.* The fact can be attested by their turnkeys, and in the month of May last, a poor tradesman's wife who had been committed for unlawfully pledging a shawl, fell from off the wheel down through the trap-door, (see Plate,) in the centre of the platform, and was the remainder of her imprisonment in the hospital; in consequence of which, Mr. Vickery, the governor, judiciously caused the trap-door to be removed to the end of the platform. What is termed "fits" occurs almost daily in the women's yards, while it is scarcely ever known to the male prisoners. Females are extremely liable to hysterical affections from grief; and when undergoing the punishment of the Tread-mill, having arisen from their comfortless bed of straw, with but little sustenance in the stomach, their feelings cannot be tranquil*. Add to this the teazing, undeviating motion of their labour, acting upon nerves already predisposed to derangement, and we need no longer wonder that the poor creatures fall in convulsions off the wheel. These circumstances are totally above the controul of the surgeon, they are purely accidental, but they occur so often as to warrant his opposition to the punishment, as a measure of medical prudence; however, having once permitted them to work at the wheel, it is impossible for him to guard against the bad consequences. It must not be supposed that the medical men of the different prisons have all been so passive under the misapplication of this inquisitorial whim of the day, as not to have given their real sentiments upon it. On the contrary, we know, that many of them are decidedly hostile to it, and it is to be regretted that the regulators of the punishment have not as yet been influenced by medical opinion upon this important point. We know there is a difference of opinion in the committee of magistrates

* Since March last, we understand that female turnkeys have been substituted for male; a measure of great propriety. *(Ed.)*

* A circumstance which weighs particularly upon the spirits of many of the females committed to the Tread-mill, is the cutting off of their hair. As a measure of cleanliness, generally speaking, it is proper: but some females are particularly attentive to their hair, and do not require such a severity. Many have been known to oppose this loss with tears, screams, and hysterics, and have required force to compel them to submit. Women confined for some slight offence, and for a short period, look upon the loss of their hair as far worse than their punishment. It is a cruel practice, and ought to be carefully attended to by the surgeon.

of the house of correction, Coldbath Fields, upon the propriety of the punishment. Mr. Laing, of Hatton Garden, is of our way of thinking, as regards this mode of punishing women; while Mr. Bevill, of Worship-street, is a fierce advocate for it. Each have their adherents, and the consequence is, that no order, regarding the female prisoners, has hitherto lasted more than "for its brief day." One time the number of hours for work were lessened; another time they were taken off altogether for a couple of months, then again put on. We trust, however, that the humane party in the committee will carry their laudable intentions, so as to permanently abolish the abuse; and we hope too, that all other directors of Tread-mills will follow the example. Let the magistrates, in favour of the cruelty, consider our observations well; let them look at our plate, and take a moral view of the subject, and whatever may have been their prejudices in favour of the Tread-mill, we hope sincerely, for our nature's sake—nay we are confident—that they will not continue it. Women could be kept to hard labour without resorting to a mode so unbecoming their sex—spinning, washing, basket making, mat making, plain work, carding wool, picking oakum, &c. &c. are employments more suited to their physical capability, and ought to be substituted. As members of the faculty, we declare that *the infirmities natural to the female sex, render them unfit for such labour as that of the Tread-mill;* and we again repeat that we sincerely hope the subject will meet due attention in the proper quarter.

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ADVICE ON DRUNKENNESS.

Diseases arising from it—Effect of Malt and Spirituous Liquors on the Stomach—Liability of the flesh of Drinkers to catch fire—Adulterations of Beer, &c.—Means of curing the habit of Drunkenness, &c.

Our great dramatic moralist was right when he said, that "every inordinate cup is unblessed, and the ingredient is a devil." Habitual drunkenness is indeed an evil Spirit, the progenitor of diseases; and by far the most formidable that the physician has to encounter. To those who have the misfortune to be far advanced in this malady, our advice, we fear, will but little avail; for it is a part of their disease, to reject all reasoning which bids them abandon their pernicious habits. But thank heaven, the number of those unhappy people who are beyond hope, is comparatively small. Numerous, however, are those who are commencing their ill-favoured career, or half way advanced upon their journey, and to those we particularly address ourselves; because they yet have it in their power to put down the demon, whose grand object is to deprive them of thirty, forty, or fifty years of their existence, and to embitter with disease their remaining days. If the practised drinker, on entering a convivial party, where he knows he must get drunk, not having resolution to stop in a proper time, would reflect, while yet his senses are sound, upon the diseases which his night's "enjoyment," as he calls it, may produce, immediately or remotely, he would pause before he submitted himself to the destructive temptation. If a purple and eruptive face, a bloated and stupid countenance, a sallow bilious skin, red and inflamed eyes, loss of appetite, indigestion, nervous tremors, and fearful dreams, had no immediate terrors for him, the more formidable in the catalogue, perhaps might, viz apoplexy, liver complaint, jaundice, stone, dropsy, wasting of the body, impotency, madness, imbecility, and premature old age!

Amongst the calamities which attend habitual drunkenness is the liability of the flesh of the body to catch fire and burn like a flambeau; but this is confined, it is believed, to females, and in the Paris Physical Journal of the eighth year of the revolution there is a memoir "on the combustion of the human body produced by the long immoderate use of spirituous liquor," by Pierre Amie Lair, in which no less than twelve cases of women destroyed by fire from this cause, are quoted from different authors. This opinion has been supported by some of the ablest physicians, and we confess we can see no reason why the human body could not become inflammable by the immoderate use of Alcohol as well as the

bones of an animal that has been fed upon Madder root, become tinted with a red colour. We know the blood is impregnated with the spirituous fluid, by the fact that the breath exhaled from the lungs gives out the strongest odour of the liquor for a long time after it is taken into the stomach; and some authors assert that such exhalations would catch fire at the contact of a lighted candle.

"Malt liquor can never hurt you," is a common phrase with those who prefer this beverage; but it is false. Malt liquor may not prove so sudden in its fatal effects; but when drank to the extent to which we see it frequently, it will be found to be, if not as quick, at least as sure a workman, in the train of the undertaker, as ardent spirits If men would confine themselves to that liquor which they brew themselves, containing only malt and hops, they might drink with less risk of danger (although when drank too freely, this also is very pernicious,) but at the present day, it is admitted, that the public brewers use various other ingredients, such as opium, bangue, belladonna, hen's bane and coculus indicus or dog poison, all of which are narcotic to a high degree; and drugs that must derange the stomach, if continued even a moderate time. Malt drinkers have been known to consume, to the extent of three gallons, in the course of an evening! One gallon is a common quantity. Supposing then that it contains in the proportion of two grains of opium to each gallon, there is, at one dose, twice the quantity which is generally prescribed in cases where that pernicious drug is necessary. The other ingredients are still more injurious than opium. Then, add to this, the passing of a gallon or two of this decoction into the mass of the blood to be distilled through those small organs the kidneys; creating an action to which the system is constrained against its natural disposition; engendering superabundant heat; forcing the liver and other glands, as well as the kidneys, to work with treble power, in order to free themselves from this noxious deluge—absolutely fatiguing the vessels by which it is taken up into the blood. What must follow as a matter of course? a wearing out of those organs from too much action: and hence come stone in the ducts of the kidneys and liver; hardness and distension of those glands, from which arise loss of appetite, bilious affections, stranguary, and a thousand other unhappy diseases, which embitter life, and ultimately destroy it. It is generally supposed that bitters are wholesome: but they are only good occasionally. When long continued they hurt the stomach: and one of the worst class is purl: a beverage much used in manufacturing towns. Malt liquor is sometimes imperfectly fermented, and therefore, if drank in that state, undergoes a degree of fermentation in the stomach, producing flatulency, griping, and cholic pains; and when taken to excess adds those troubles to its more serious disorders.

We have often been asked by the votaries of the glass, which of the spirituous liquors were the "wholesomest." We will now give our opinion, and say, *that which has most water mixed with it.* Whether the spirit be extracted from grapes, or sugar, or corn, still it is alcohol, and highly injurious to health, when used improperly. Hypothetical arguments have been used to prove the good qualities of one kind of spirit over the other: it has been said that raw beef will dissolve in one kind, and be preserved in another. This has nothing to do with the effect of spirits upon the living stomach. The strongest will certainly injure the coats sooner than the weaker kind; but this is all. Spirituous differ from malt liquor in having the stimulating qualities more concentrated, and in not possessing any of the particles of nutrition found in the latter; its effects therefore must be more sudden, and more dangerous Besides the consequences which it produces by being taken from the stomach into the blood, its effects upon the nerves when first drank are evident It stimulates highly by coming in contact with the coats of the stomach on which are expanded such minute branches of nerves; and, through them, excites the whole system. Then mixing with the fluid called *chyle*, from which is formed the blood, it is

taken into the circulation, and deranges, more or less, the healthy operations intended to be performed by that bland fluid of nutrition.

But although we have gone thus far in condemning the immoderate use of spirituous and malt liquors, we are not advocates for *water drinking*—a practice we hold to be as absurd as an exclusive vegetable diet, and of which we shall speak hereafter. No, we are not disciples of Darwin and Trotter on this point. On the contrary, we think that the moderate use of wine, wholesome malt liquor, and even ardent spirits, is extremely beneficial to health. It carries with it, however, a temptation to indulge further; but independent of this it has no danger. According to the strength of the constitution, we think that from half a pint to three half pints of wine, from one pint to three of malt liquor, or one or two glasses of spirits and water in the evening will do no harm:—none whatever before dinner. But even this indulgence is neutral or injurious before the age of twenty-five. We advise our readers not to exceed the quantity above stated, which they will find sufficient for a night's enjoyment, and let them take as much less as they can. If they find a wish to proceed still further into the indulgence of the bottle, let them by all means add to each additional cup two tea spoons' full of antimonial wine. Every dose will lessen the wish for another. By the bye, this would be a good remedy to be employed by those who have the care of drinkers far advanced in the habit, and might tend to cure them: but it should be added to the liquor without their knowledge. Perhaps one grain of tartarite of antimony to each glass would be better than the antimonial wine, as it could be more conveniently introduced.

Too much caution cannot be used by parents in keeping their children from even tasting wine or spirits. No child ever liked them at first; and it is only by habit that they come to use them. Let this habit then be deferred as long as possible: for the earlier children commence to use wine and spirits, the greater becomes the danger of their future attachment to them. There is an opinion abroad not only with the public, but amongst some of the faculty, namely, that it is dangerous to take an habitual drinker from the use of liquor all at once. Nothing is more erroneous. It is but an evil irritation, to which the constitution is forced to accommodate itself; so is the stone in the bladder; so is a musquet ball in the lungs; so is the French gourmands application of fire to the breast of a living goose.* Would the removal of the stone from the bladder, the ball from the lungs, or the fire from the goose be attended with danger? on the contrary, it would be the probable means of relief.

Many fashionable young men of the present age seem to take a degree of pride in ebriety, particularly those from the sister kingdom. They will insinuate, even to ladies, their fêtes of the bottle, by inuendos, "I've been keeping it up last night," &c, but this is founded on bad principles, and worse taste. If they would reflect that drunkenness particularly degrades a man from the station he holds relative to the fair sex—how must they despise that enemy to love: it would soon be out of fashion. The Athenians made severe laws against drunkards, and in magistrates it was punished with death, by a law of Solon. The Lacedemonians also proscribed it, and used to expose drunken slaves before the youths to excite disgust. The Nervii used no wine, lest they should become effeminate. Women were punished severely among the Romans, for that vice. Neither Cathaginians nor Saracens used wine: and Mahomet had wise reasons in forbidding it. The Spanish word for drunkard is *borachio* (a pig skin) evidently figurative, and a term of degradation, because they carry their wine in a skin tied at both ends; and even the Cherokee Indians have enacted the severest penalties against the use of spirituous liquors from having seen their neighbouring tribes frequently destroyed by their use. But let us not altogether forbid wine, malt liquor, or

* It is a practice amongst the gourmands of France to have that part of a goose immediately over the liver laid bare, and applied to the fire until, by excessive heat, the liver of the poor sufferer becomes diseased by inflammation. These livers collected form what they term a delicious dish.

spirits, as if we had no manly resolution. Let us rather make their use a source of comfort by moderate and well-timed indulgence in it.

MEANS OF RESTORING A DRUNKEN PERSON.

As the paroxysm of drunkenness is sometimes so excessive, as to produce apoplexy, the following is useful:—Let the patient be placed in a chair, supporting his head, and then administer a wine glass full of the best vinegar, rubbing his temples gently with a little of the same. If the good effect be not seen in ten minutes, other means must be employed. If the patient is in the first stage of the fit, that is, if his face is red, and his skin hot, let him be stripped, and have a pail of water showered on him from three feet above his head. This may be repeated three or four times. If this does not produce a full effect, give thirty grains of ipecacuanha. Let it be particularly observed, that if the eyes are fixed, and red, and the breathing difficult, to send immediately for a surgeon. Should the patient be in the last stage, namely, paleness of countenance, and cold skin, use no cold water, but content yourself with rubbing his temples and nostrils with vinegar, and give the ipecacuanha as above, with warm water or tea. In cases, where, from bravado, madness, and the like, a great portion of strong spirits is suddenly drank, and the person as suddenly falls senseless, every means must be tried to get a quart or two of warm water (or cold, if warm cannot immediately be procured,) tea, coffee, milk, or even weak beer, so as to dilute, as soon as possible, the spirits taken; also the ipecacuanha as directed above. If the patient vomits the contents of the stomach, then there are hopes of recovery. He should be put to bed, and whey given in considerable quantities, at short intervals, for twenty-four hours.

COMMON COUGH.

A cough is one of the most frequent diseases in this country; and the approaching cold and foggy weather will bear testimony but too well to the fact. Although apparently the same in nearly all cases, yet its origin and its causes are of most various character. It would be better to call it symptomatic of disease, than disease itself: and as such we will treat of it, directing our readers to its causes for its cure. The most common cough in winter, arises from what is termed "a cold"—the occasion, by the bye, of many worse diseases. It takes place in consequence of obstructed perspiration, at least this is the opinion of the faculty: however it is a question with us whether that the perspirable fluid has quite so much to do with it. We would rather account for its effects, in the extraction of caloric from the body; and the sympathy between the nerves of the skin and the lungs, or other parts affected. But our readers, no doubt, would prefer that we should consider its cause as regards disease, and not proceed farther in speculations upon its physical causes. When a person who has never had a cough before is attacked with a hoarseness, and loud barking cough, with which he expectorates nothing, feels a tightness at the root of the throat, but no pain in breathing, and nothing of what is untechnically termed a stitch in the side, nor pain when he lies down, it is not of a dangerous nature although of a very troublesome one. Its cause is from a thickening of the membrane, which lines the trachea or wind-pipe near its roots in the lungs, and also a partial swelling of the cells of the lungs themselves. To allay this thickening and swelling is all that is necessary to obtain a cure; and that is to be done by simply producing a free expectoration. The following mode we recommend. First let the patient be kept warm and keep out of all currents of air; wrap the throat with flannel; take a purgative of senna tea (a cup full) in which is dissolved two or three drachms of Epsom salts in the morning. Light diet must be observed, and no heating ingredients. At night let the legs be put into warm water, and out of the water into bed, taking immediately three grains of nitre in a pint of hot whey,*

* To make whey, boil some new milk and add to it while boiling a little vinegar, to the proportion of about a table-spoonfull to half a pint.

which is the best of all drinks in such diseases—or hot tea. Let the patient be covered warmer than usual and encourage perspiration, carefully observing not to throw the clothes off during the night, and to dry the skin previous to rising next morning. If expectoration be thus produced, which it frequently will be, the disease will go off rapidly; but to ensure it, let the following mixture be used, which is better than all the myriad of *cough drops*, *balsamic mixtures*, and *pectoral elixirs* with which the town is deluged, and which costs not one sixth of the price of one of these patent doses.

Three drachms of vinegar of squills,
Two drachms of tincture of squills,
One drachm of spirits of nitre,
Ten drops of the tincture of digitalis,
Four ounces of common water and a little syrup,

Mix them, and take a table-spoonful three or four times a day. This will ease the chest and promote a free expectoration.

It is supposed by people in general, that by pouring oily possets, &c. down the throat they soften the parts from which the cough comes, on the same principle as they would oil a flute. This is wrong; for nothing passes down the tube from which proceeds the cough but air; the posset takes a different route; namely, down the *œsophagus* or canal which leads to the stomach, and which lays behind the windpipe. Sugared milk, egg flip, raw eggs, buttered beer, &c. &c. &c. are all used on this false principle, and are of little use—the flip and buttered beer decidedly injurious. What we have now described is the common cough. Let us see with what it may be confounded. The patient may be seized with the above symptoms, and in addition may have an acute pain in the side, great difficulty in breathing, unable to lie on one particular side, and redness of the face and eyes. In this case inflammation of the lungs or its membranes is present; and we advise to send immediately for medical assistance; as bleeding, blistering, and evacuations, regulated by a scientific opinion, which is to be guided by innumerable circumstances, will be necessary to secure the patient; however opening medicines may be safely given in all these cases. Let the following maxim be observed:—when there is no pain in the side nor great difficulty of breathing, the cough may be treated by the patient himself, as above stated; but when these symptoms set in, the disease should be always treated by a medical practitioner. Another good cough mixture is as follows: and it may be used alternately with the above-mentioned.

Half an ounce of gum ammoniac dissolved by rubbing in a mortar with a pint of cold water, add to this half an ounce of the tincture of squills, and half an ounce of syrup. Two table spoons-full occasionally.

If the cough notwithstanding the remedies we prescribe should remain a considerable length of time, we may fairly suppose that some of the glands which secrete the natural moistening fluid in the lungs, or rather the root of the windpipe, are diseased, that is, enlarged. In such case the patient must occasionally take an emetic of ipecacuanha, and every night two of the following pills, observing to keep the body unexposed to fresh cold.

Of squill pill, one drachm,
Of extract of colocynth one drachm,

mixed and made into twenty-four pills.—

It would be well also to promote a gentle perspiration by a drink of warm whey at night, and to take in the morning a cup full of the infusion of horehound—an herb which is easily procured. The infusion is made in the same manner as tea. Should hoarseness remain, the following draught may be taken daily with advantage.

An ounce of penny-royal water,
Four grains of carbonate of ammonia,
Two drachms of the oxymel of squills,

mixed and taken in the middle of the day.

Let this point be observed; that cough is produced by a natural exertion to get rid of some irritating substance, and that to promote expectoration is the best way to accomplish it This is to be done by the means above-mentioned. The cough here treated upon is that which arises from a sudden cold. Coughs proceeding from consumption of the lungs, asthma, repelled eruptions, gout, diseased liver, &c. shall be examined under their respective diseases.

TREATMENT AND DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Food and Clothing of Infants.

As nature seldom supplies the infant's mother with milk for some days after birth, the most proper nourishment for it is thin water gruel, mixed with a little fresh butter and sugar. The best of all nourishment for the child is its mother's milk, but from a variety of circumstances women are sometimes unable to suckle their children, and have an objection to let them go to another woman; in which cases the most proper substitute is powdered biscuit boiled in milk, which should be as fresh as possible, and made into a jelly; then diluted with milk. This must not be crammed down the child's throat every time it cries, which is but too common: if so, indigestion will follow, and a wasting of the flesh, which nothing will check, and the child sinks in about three weeks, from decay. Let, then, the food be given at regular periods; say at the end of every six hours. Do not feed the child each time, until it refuses, but portion three table spoons' full at a time, and if it cries for more, then give it boiled milk, which should be sucked through a pot, made for the purpose, called a *Sucking-pot*, at the end of which should be attached a small bit of sponge, enveloped with parchment, which must be pricked with the point of a pin. Care must be taken to wash this sponge in hot water every day, and likewise the milk-pot. This drink should be given now and then during the intervals of the food; and at the end of the first week a little beef tea may be added to the milk occasionally. The infant, before its stomach becomes accommodated to the food, will be subject to irregularities of the bowels; it therefore should have three grains of rhubarb, and five of magnesia, every four or five days, which will do as much for it as the nourishment itself. Let the child be washed every morning in cold water in summer, and with tepid in winter. It must not be half smothered in flannels, as is often the case, but moderately covered; it being more necessary to attend to the temperature of the apartment in which the child is, than to the clothes. The room must be of a moderate heat, and no draughts of air passing partially through it. Avoid all those medicines called "*Soothing*," and indeed every other medicine, save rhubarb and magnesia, unless other symptoms of disease are present, of which we will treat hereafter. Amongst many nurses it is a practise to let the infant remain wet and unchanged as long as they can do so without being observed. Let this be strictly watched: nothing tends to destroy the child more than such neglect. Excoriations are the consequence: they produce pain, want of sleep, and fever, which acting on so young and tender a subject, usually prove fatal. When such excoriations take place, it becomes still more necessary to attend to changing the infant, and at each change a little fullers' earth applied, will be attended with benefit. To prevent these ill effects of carelessness, the body should be always kept dry, and after washing, hair powder should be used, particularly at the joints. We will now draw the attention of mothers to one of the most important parts of the treatment, namely,

THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF OPIUM ON INFANTS.

WE should not be very far wrong were we to say that one-third of the infants that die under the care of nurses are sacrificed by the use of opium. Syrup of poppies, and the "soothing" syrup made by that *She* quack Mrs. Johnson, are the favourite medicines where the nurse wishes for quiet nights. Whenever the child is restless, a spoonfull of either of the above is given; if it cries from internal pain, want of food, or any other cause, the dose is repeated: in short, a quiet infant is far more desirable than a noisy one, in the opinion of those who care less for its safety than for their own ease, and therefore "soothing" medicines, as they are termed, become favourites. Opium is the acting principle of all those medicines; and the smallest dose of them is only less of *poison* than a greater. The first effects of opium upon in-

fants, if given in small doses, is to throw them into a nearly comatose state. They sleep on, almost incessantly; a deadly paleness soon follows; and if they are accustomed to the use of it, the features become more defined and marked, the eye more hollow, and the breathing slower. Constipation of the bowels takes place immediately after the first dose, and this increases with the use of the medicine. Loss of appetite and indigestion follow; a general wasting, and death. These are the symptoms where the opium is not given in large doses; but in small ones constantly repeated, and it is the most common mode of giving this deleterious medicine. When once the child begins with it, unless it is repeated, the quiet which it produces will only prove of a few hours duration; and then this restlessness becomes worse; another dose allays this irritation, and thus it goes on till it can go no farther. If the infant has got a large dose of opium, the effects will be soon discovered by a peculiar starting in the sleep, accompanied by a cry, indicating acute pain. This soon subsides, and the child relapses into a quiet sleep, from which it again starts and cries; and then again relapses. In proportion as the dose is large, so the breathing will be observed to be slow, with a pause in the respiration; so long, sometimes, that one would imagine the infant had ceased to breathe: and if awakened keeps its eyes constantly turned upwards. The starting and sudden cry now returns at intervals of three or four moments, and very likely terminates in death, without any other symptom. This starting and crying, and drawing up of the legs, are mistaken for griping and general irritation, and the "soothing" is again applied to: a few quiet moments ensue, then comes another start and a cry; and with it comes another dose —starting and dosing, dosing and starting, till the last start comes—and so ends the nurse's prescription! Whenever a mother discovers these symptoms, let her take care that the child may have an opening medicine —castor oil is the best—every day or two, for a week; and let it be fed upon the breast milk, if it is suckling, or common milk if otherwise. The child if recovering, will be cross; but it must be borne with, and no medicine given but the castor oil—nothing under the mistaken term "composing," for they are all composed of opium, and perfumed water of some kind or other. Putting the child into warm water at night is useful under these circumstances, and if no other symptoms are present, doing that, and giving the castor oil, will be all that can be done. Medical advice would be highly proper in such cases; but it should be a physician's.

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
On the Appearances of Health and Disease in Infants.

When an infant is in a state of health, its body and limbs are round and hard, its cheeks fat, eyes lively, and gestures easy and natural. In disease the marks of the muscles and joints appear, the limbs become thin, and assume the finished and well turned outline of an adult; while the eyes look dull, and the features develope themselves fully. The gestures are confined, and indicative of uneasiness. If the bowels are suffering, the legs are frequently drawn up, and the toes distended: and in affections of the head, such as approaching water on the brain, or inflammation of the brain, the hands are raised to the head constantly. Another remarkable motion is a picking with the fingers, the face: and usually indicates derangement of the digestive organs. This may be removed by one grain of calomel mixed with white sugar, given at night, and a couple of table spoons full of senna tea next morning. When the roundness of the body disappears, and the features and joints mark themselves out, recourse must be had to a physician's assistance; for the cause may depend upon such opposite diseases, that it would be improper to lay down any precise rule to our readers. As we go on, however, we will set forth the diseases of infants; and under each shall be found the peculiar symptoms and treatment belonging to it.

TENDENCY OF CRAVATS TO PRODUCE APOPLEXY.

The cause of sanguineous apoplexy is the distension of the blood vessels of the brain to such a degree as to compress it. The great volume of the blood which is sent up into the head by the carotid arteries is returned by the jugular veins, two of which are so near the skin that they are discernible plainly to the eye. If pressure with the finger be made upon these veins, the immediate consequence will be a redness and swelling of the face, ears, &c. which will abate on removal of the pressure; this is to be accounted for by the carotid arteries constantly sending, by their pulsation, a column of blood upwards, while the veins, whose function is to carry back that blood, are stopped up. How far the use of cravats may be dangerous in this way is simply defined: they are so in proportion to the pressure which they give. The modern cravat or stock used by our fashionables are free from all this danger from its laxity, but we still meet, as we walk along, many of the old school whose necks are harnessed with a round stiff tight and padded cravat, bidding defiance alike to the sneers of fashion and the threats of apoplexy. We seldom see a fat elderly man that is not in this kind of pillory; and it would seem that in proportion to his corpulency and shortness of neck, so encrease the tightness and roundness of the wadding through which he labours to breathe. When these men sit down to their evening bottle, they are *tête à-tête* with death; for every glass encreases the pressure upon their external jugular veins by stimulus, which continues till the blood of the head is forced to return through the internal jugular veins alone; while its impetus is nearly doubly what it was before dinner!

We were passing through the gallery of the Louvre some years ago, when a gourmand, who was contemplating in admiration, the portrait of his legitimate Louis, fell down in a fit. We were prompt in rendering him assistance, not the least of which was the depriving his neck of a round and tightly-tied cravat, which was torn in the hurry of removing it. His friend informed us that he had just stood up from a breakfast *a la fourchette*, and had taken half a bottle of Champagne exclusive of his macon. Approaching apoplexy was evident. However, when the cravat was removed, and a few ounces of blood taken from the arm, the gentleman was restored. We shall never forget the first sentence he uttered when he recovered. "Ah! Mon Dieu! vous aver dechirez mon Cravat!"

The ancients wore no cravats; nor do the greatest part of the world at this day. And it is worthy of remark, that those nations that use it, also indulge in wine and spirituous liquors; no wonder then that we have frequent apoplexies. We often hear of a man dying by intoxication; but we seldom, if ever, hear that while under the influence of liquor, he fell down, with his head *pressed to one side*, by which not only the circulation was impeded, but also his breathing, through the pressure of his cravat. No; this is not attended to: yet it is well worthy of attention. Why does Lord Byron wear no cravat? Is it that his bust may look more classical—more like Milton, or Shakspeare? We suspect his lordship has stronger reasons. He knows that the operations of the mind may be impeded and deranged by pressure on the jugular veins, and cravats cannot be worn without producing occasional pressure on these blood vessels. Mr. Farmer, the author of a little work on head-aches, is of the same opinion, and thinks also that cravats in many cases produce that disease. In this we agree with him. Of all introductions in dress, the cravat is the worst,—both unseemly and dangerous. It was first introduced to guard against the sudden changes of climate; but why do not ladies use it? They are not more particularly subject to cold for its absence. As well might we invent a covering for the face, as for the neck—better, we think; for there exists no danger from pressure on the face. The dandies of the day shew symptoms of cashiering the cravat. We really did not suspect that genus to have been possessed of so much good

sense; and we recommend the more serious order of mankind to follow the example, as soon as the cold weather disappears.

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SLEEP-WALKING.

Although the brain, during sleep, performs no functions of reason or instinct, yet the pressure occasioned by the passing of the blood through it, while in that state, produces sensations that agitate, in a confused manner, the shadows of those realities which it has been accustomed to bear. It is a recurrence of the sensorium to those actions of thought to which it has been familiar; unmixed with, and unregulated by, any impressions from the external senses. It is common to see people move their lips, tongue and limbs during sleep. The same cause moves the sleep-walker to the various actions which he performs: and somnambulation is only a dream of more extended power than others. There has been no effectual remedy against this unpleasant and dangerous affection; we may therefore fairly speculate in opinion upon means of cure; and we think terror, properly regulated during the action of sleep-walking, is worthy of consideration. It might be tried, with benefit, to persons who are not very nervous or delicate. The following cases may serve to strengthen this opinion.

Edward Harding, a student of Trinity College, Dublin, who inhabited an attic in the left wing of the University, was in the habit of walking upon the roof in his sleep. One night, having taken a relation, who was locked out, to sleep with him, they had not been in bed more than two hours, when the latter saw him deliberately get up, put on his clothes, strike a light, and sit down, apparently to study. This however, did not surprise him, as he thought his friend was preparing for the approaching examinations. In a few moments he observed him opening the window, and immediately proceeding to walk out of it upon the roof. Recollecting that his friend had the habit of sleep-walking, he pursued him cautiously. The day was just dawning, and he could see him distinctly walking along the parapet with destruction within an inch of him! Actuated with strong fear for his friend's safety, he proceeded in the gutter of the roof, until he came behind Mr. Harding, who now stood at the extreme end of the building, and seemed to look down upon the distant earth with the greatest *sang froid*, and seizing him suddenly by the arm, pulled him upon him, into the gutter, there holding him by force, notwithstanding his violent exertions to disengage himself, until at length he became quite awake, and sensible of his perilous situation. He never afterwards walked in his sleep, although he used to get out of bed at night, and mope about for a moment or two; but he would awake in the greatest terror, which however soon dissipated, and he rested well the remainder of the night.

A lady in Scotland is said to have been cured by a similar effect. She was the daughter of a gentleman who inhabited an old romantic house in Dumfries-shire; and sundry strange noises, music, &c. having been heard by himself and his domestics about midnight, in a certain room, it was considered to be haunted. A friend having been on a visit at the house, the conversation turned upon the circumstance of the haunted apartment, when the guest, who was a young man not to be frightened by a ghost, proposed to sleep in it. This was acceded to, and he retired to "the abode of horrors" amidst the prayers and pity of the wondering domestics. About one o'clock, while he was yet sitting at the fire reading, the door was opened, and a female in a long white robe entered. The figure proceeded to different parts of the room, and at length sat down to an old spinette, and played some pretty airs. The young man now perceived it was no ghost, but bonâ fide his host's daughter. He approached her to applaud the performance, and the lady having stood up, took her hand to conduct her to the door, when she awakened, and perceiving her situation, retired almost overcome with terror. This adventure completely cured her.—We would recommend, in cases of sleep-walking, to seize the arms suddenly, and halloo in the ears until the sleeper awake: or

the application of a jug of cold water, by pouring it suddenly upon the head. In this latter case, however, care should be taken to have the body well rubbed with dry towels after the operation.

ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE DIET.

That the stomach of man is intended to digest, and his health receive nourishment by animal as well as vegetable diet, is without doubt. We are decidedly omnivorous animals. Neither will the body thrive upon meat alone, nor vegetables alone. Those savages who live on flesh only, and those poor Dutch peasants who seldom see meat upon their tables, are poor squalid looking beings, and would strongly illustrate our opinions, if they were placed alongside of our English butchers, who are a fine strong wholesome set of people in general. It is not animal food which is itself unwholesome, but the improper use of it—too much taken at a time, or perhaps tough and overdone. Let a fair and reasonable portion of underdone meat be taken, with a due portion of vegetables, and it will promote health and strength. Water drinkers are equally as mistaken as vegetable dieters; but of this we have spoken in our "*advice on drunkenness.*" The late Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote against animal diet a paper the most absurd and irrational: a parody of which will be found at the end of the following humorous article handed to us by a correspondent, under the form of a speech from the president. As the article treats of vegetable diet in the way it ought to be treated, we will offer no further arguments against it: and we are in hope that those disciples of the late Mr. Shelley (numerous enough we know) will take our correspondent's satire as it is meant, namely, to laugh them out of their folly, and thereby add a few years to their lives.

The article is supposed to have been reported in a newspaper, and is as follows:

DINNER BY THE AMATEURS OF VEGETABLE DIET.

"Lotophagi and men whose heads are not in their right places."

On the — day of —— sixty persons, who had lived for more than three years on vegetables and pure water, met for the purpose of felicitating each other on the circumstance of their being still alive. This singular feast excited such an unusual elation of spirits that it was unanimously resolved that a solemn dinner should be given, to which all the eaters of vegetable diet in the three kingdoms should be invited. One gentleman present observed that some qualifying clause was necessary in this resolution, for that as it was now worded it included all the Scotch and Irish, and a considerable portion of the English peasantry, whose diet was uncontaminated by any carnous admixture. He dwelt largely on the difficulty of bringing such a multitude together, and remarked that if the whole, or even a considerable part could be assembled, very great terror would be excited in the good city of London and its environs. That such a multitude from its herbiferous habits might justly be regarded as worse than the plague of locusts; that, assuredly, they would eat up every green thing. Such a measure, he added, would bring upon its adopters the notice of government, and produce at least a suspension in the habeas corpus act, and an abolition of the right of public meetings. He therefore humbly moved that the word "*amateurs*" should be substituted for "*eaters.*" Mr. Leigh Hunt, who though not a vegetable man, yet thought himself entitled to speak at this meeting, from his fondness for tea, and the lighter kinds of meats, &c. rose to reply: He agreed with the gentleman who spoke last on the inconvenience that would result from so large a meeting—meetings led him to the right of petition and parliamentary reform. In alluding to the diet of the peasants he observed that their privations of animal food was obviously a branch of the borough-mongering system. This to be sure was one of its least pernicious

esults; but it was a result, and as such to be detested "*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*" He dilated much upon the amiable character of the peasantry. For the Irish peasant in particular he expressed an enthusiastic admiration. To the word "*Amateurs*" he objected as of French growth: commended his own mode of coining words as having a kind of freshness and "*springness*" about it, and concluded with recommending the word *appetiters* of vegetable diet, as at once being new, expressive and "*unvulgar*:" the motion however passed with the amendment first proposed. The dinner was fixed for the first of the ensuing month, and the place for dining was Hampstead-heath; it being considered that the open air harmonized best with vegetable diet and pure water. Just at this moment Mr. Manchester Hunt arrived out of breath, and bustling into the very centre of the group, begged permission to say a few words, which was granted. He said he felt himself called upon to attend the present meeting for two reasons: the first was, because the object of it was to promote reform, if not in the constitution of the country, at least in the constitution of their bodies. He loved reform in every thing, and would support it. Secondly, as the inventor of a vegetable breakfast, which he trusted would go far in reforming the state, not only of the people's health, but also of the treasury; (some whispered that he meant his *own* treasury.) As the inventor, he felt confident he would be received and patronised by the meeting. He held in his hand a pound of this breakfast powder, "grain, pure roasted grain, gentlemen," and he begged that a fair trial would be given to it. He then moved that the party should have a public breakfast as well as a dinner, and that he would supply vegetable powder, which however would be on the most reasonable terms. Thus they would have an opportunity of discussing, in the hours between, the virtues of radical reform and roasted grain. He then concluded by distributing his handbills to those around him, declaring that no breakfast powder was genuine that had not his signature on the package which, he said, was felony to counterfeit. At the conclusion of Mr. Hunt's address, the greatest confusion arose, and the consequence promised to be fatal to the intended dinner, had not one of the gentlemen present taken Hunt aside, and requested him to withdraw: ingeniously adding an order for twenty pounds of his coffee. This had the desired effect, and the radical gentleman withdrew. When silence was restored, a committee was appointed to cater for the amateurs, and various disputes arose therein, regarding what dishes would be admissible, and what not. The earliness of the season left them no great variety of choice in the vegetable world: some, therefore, contended that fish might be allowed upon a solemn occasion like this; but the proposal was scouted by the rest with the utmost vehemence. One person held out a good while for oysters, asserting that they were to all intents and purposes submarine vegetables; and Mr. Leigh Hunt, who was admitted an honorary member pleaded hard for shrimps and periwinkles. But his eloquence was spent to no purpose: the Catos of the committee remained unshaken.

On the morning of the dinner there was not a vegetable left in Covent Garden market by nine o'clock. All the green grocers in the north end of the town were speedily disburthened of their wares, and an immense number of families in the parishes of Pancras and Bloomsbury, in Hampstead, Highgate and Kentish town were left that day without a carrot, cabbage, or potatoe! An advance took place in the price of vegetables within six miles round, and a turnip was known to fetch five shillings!

At 5 o'clock the tables were spread, and the guests assembled on Hampstead Heath: the late P. B. S. was in the chair; near him sat Dr. L., Mr. R. the antiquarian, Sir J. S., the Rev. P. and Mr. T. the Pythagorian philosopher, near him was Mr. G., Mr. H. and Mr. L. H., with many others whom it would be tedious to enumerate. We were sorry to observe several of the more rigid amateurs look-

ing very pale and thin, but they all declared that they enjoyed *the most perfect health.*

The dinner was composed of such vegetables as were in season: they were generally boiled or fried, though some few rivals of the gymnosophists preferred their cabbage, &c. &c. in a raw state. One sage in particular we remarked with a dish of *clover* before him, which he devoured with an avidity worthy of Nebuchadnezzar himself. Like the king of Babylon, he appeared to have served a seven years apprenticeship to the business. There were not many instances of repletion at this dinner. We are sorry however to state, that one gentleman was obliged to quit the table very soon, being seized with a fit of the colic, and exhibiting all the symptoms of incipient *anasarca*—the consequence of an inordinate indulgence in cabbage, and toast and water. After dinner, tea and Hunt's powder was served up with the dessert; and now began the joyous "rout and revelry." These followers of Pythagoras, however rigid in their adherence to his system of diet, were not very scrupulous observers of his precepts of taciturnity. Tongues wagged on all sides, and arguments rose thick, fast, and fiery. The silent heath resounded, and appeared on a sudden to be metamorphosed into the palace of noise the temple of discord. How all this might have ended it is hard to say, if the noise had not been suddenly interrupted and drowned by another more powerful din from the opposite side of the heath. This proceeded from a party of brother amateurs, of the long-eared kind, who had just commenced their after-dinner concert and jollification. This interruption proved a seasonable correction to the unphilosophic vociferation of our party, and restored them to a becoming consciousness of their two-legged dignity.

The president now rose and addressed the assembly in the following words:—"It is with the utmost satisfaction that I behold assembled together such an illustrious company of enlightened men; all at least favourable to the principles that dictate our abstinence from animal food, and the majority strict observers of a vegetable regimen. The depravity of man is undoubtedly to be sought for in the indulgence of carnivorous appetites. This has been the persuasion of the enlightened of all ages. The fact has been darkly hinted at in the mythology of all religions. The biblical allegory of the forbidden fruit admits of no explanation but this. The apple of the fatal tree was nothing, gentlemen, but a well-dressed beef steak; whether plain or with oyster sauce is doubtful. The serpent is a representation of the brute creation. Man is said to have bruised his head when he devoted the race of animals to death for the gratification of his unnatural appetite, In return the heel of man was said to have been bruised by the serpent; that is, the indulgence in flesh diet deprived him of his energy, and reduced him to inactivity, torpor, disease, and death. The fable of Prometheus may be similarly explained. Prometheus, gentlemen, was a cook of some celebrity in his day. The gourmands of that time were so delighted with his culinary preparations, that they declared he must have stolen fire from heaven. But he himself fell the first victim to his own pernicious inventions. A vulture preyed upon his liver; that is, he was afflicted with an incurable *hepatitis*, which tormented him for many years, and finally put a period to his existence. Such, gentlemen, is the brief, but emphatic account of the origin of cookery—that fatal science which has taught the knowledge of so many ills, —that accursed tree whose fruit is poison—that exhaustless fountain from which man in every age has drank such copious draughts of perdition. Centuries and centuries have rolled away since Prometheus discovered his execrable art, and centuries and centuries may roll away again ere its destructive energies shall cease to operate. To this we owe the existence of every evil—every crime. Animal diet is the parent of madness—madness of criminality and vice. To this, gentlemen, we owe the existence of superstition, the abuse called government, the injustice of law, and the abomi-

nation of marriage, every vice that can result from the perversion of nature, in our present distempered state of civilization.

Yet I confess I entertain some hopes of at least a partial return to natural diet. When I survey the enlightened assembly around me, I cannot entirely despair. In each countenance I read the fairest promise of the future dietetic reformation of mankind. As Prometheus was the introducer of cooked flesh into the world, so shall Newton be the illustrious restorer of raw vegetables. As in Adam all eat meat, so in Newton shall all eat cabbage. And who, gentlemen, that looks upon us, that have fed on vegetables for the last three years, can doubt for a moment of the efficacy of our regimen. In the whole of our animal economy there is nothing to offend the most fastidious acumen of physiological criticism. We have no superabundant flesh, no unexpressive roundness—every muscle—every tendon can be seen. There is a ring of thoughtful darkness round our eyes that speaks a true soul—a soul enlivened by vegetables and pure water, and there is a hue upon our cheeks which shames the blush of mutton eaters. Let us rejoice! the glorious era is approaching that will fully develope the perfectability of our natures—the golden age in which there shall be no such thing as distinction of property, form of government, institution of law, or establishment of religion—when there shall be neither prostitution nor marriage, crime nor punishment, exchange nor robbery—when every man shall live under his own vine and fig tree, and rise a gentle being from his meal of roots, to propagate around him his own unperverted feelings: Gentlemen, I see in you the harbinger of the glorious day—the John the Baptist of the genuine redemption of mankind. Proceed then in your frugivorous career—*macte virtute tua*. This speech was followed by enthusiastic acclamations, which astounded their quadruped neighbours. Several toasts were then drank, and many appropriate songs sung. The President gave "A return to nature; or success to vegetable regimen!" (drank three times three)—song, "*peas, beans and cabbage.*" "The cultivation of grain, and may it quickly supersede pasturage" was then given—song, "*I wish I was a brewer's horse.*" Mr. P. B. S. then gave "The memory of Nebuchadnezzar: and may all kings, like him, be speedily sent to graze with their brother brutes." This toast excited much commotion, but was drank at last without the adjunct, which it was deemed prudent to omit. Mr. B., of bible celebrity, observed, that in supposing Nebuchadnezzar to have fed on grass, we are not borne out by the Hebrew text. This he would prove in his intended translation of the bible. He also took occasion to declare his opinion that the longevity of mankind before the flood was owing to their feeding on vegetables; not on raw meat, as had been erroneously supposed. But these were points he trusted, would be fully cleared up, in his "Treatise on Antideluvian Cherubim." Mr. T. the platonist proposed a toast, "The reign of Saturn, and speedy restoration to the worship of the heathen Gods," which, however, was not drank, as it appeared to interfere with religious toleration. One of the members was now commencing a spirited eulogium upon the pleasures which man must enjoy in a state of nature, when a most overwhelming shower of rain put a stop to his oratory, and proved a sad argument against his doctrine, for the party instantly dispersed, to shelter themselves in the best way they could against such natural effects

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Communications for the EDITOR to be addressed (post paid) to Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, Paternoster Row. Any Information of Interest connected with the Spirit of the MEDICAL ADVISER will be thankfully received.

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AND

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THE TALICOTIAN OPERATION FOR MAKING A NEW NOSE.

THE operation, although not eminently successful in Europe, seldom fails in the East Indies. This want of success cannot be the difference of climate; we should sooner suppose that two inflamed surfaces would unite better in England than in Seringapatam, and that inflammation is more liable to run into suppuration and gangrene in the latter part than in the former: we suppose rather that it is to the superior dexterity with which the operation is performed by the native Indian surgeons, that the success is to be attributed. They have extensive practice in this operation from the cutting off of noses, being a punishment for treason or desertion:* while our European surgeons scarcely ever meet a case on which they can give the operation a fair trial. Mr. Carpue has performed it, we believe, with success; but a case occurred the other day, at Bartholomew's Hospital, in which the new nose sloughed and fell off.

We think it is an operation which is very likely to succeed when proper-

* Tippoo Saib ordered all the noses and right hands to be cut off from his native Indian prisoners who served in the contest.

ly understood: and we also think that its success depends upon the manner in which the skin cut from the forehead is *twisted or turned to lap over the nasal aperture* If it is twisted at all tightly, the consequence is a stoppage in the circulation of the blood in the part which connects the skin to life, and which is destined to establish by inosculation, a circle of new communicating arteries, and so produce sloughing or mortification. To this particular point is attached, we believe, all the risk of the operation, and if that difficulty can be got over, there will exist little to make it unsuccessful. There can be no doubt of its use, if successful, and therefore the failure of one operation here should not deter surgeons from it in future, nor patients from submitting to it.

The following is the Indian mode of performing it. A thin plate of wax is fitted to the stump of the nose so as to make a nose of good appearance, it is then flattened and laid on the forehead, a line is drawn round the wax, which is then of no further use, and the operator then dissects off as much skin as it covered, having undivided a small slip between the eyes. This slip preserves the circulation till an union has taken place between the new and the old parts. The cicatrix of the stump of the nose is next pared off, and immediately behind this raw part is an incision made through the skin, which passes round both alæ and goes along the upper lip. The skin is now brought down from the forehead, and being twisted half round its edge, is inserted into this incision, so that a nose is formed with a double hold above, and with it its alæ and septem below fixed in the incision. A little *terra japonica* is softened with water, and being spread on slips of cloth, five or six of these are placed over each other to secure the joining. No other dressing but this cement is used for four days. It is then removed, a cloth dipped in ghee (a kind of butter) is applied. The connecting slip of skin is divided about the 25th day, when a little more dissection is necessary to improve the appearance of the new nose. For five or six days after the operation the patient is made to lie on his back, and on the 10th day bits of soft cloth are put into the nostrils to keep them sufficiently open. This operation is always successful. The artificial nose is secure, and looks nearly as well as the natural one, nor is the scar on the forehead very observable after a length of time.

The portrait from which our outline in the plate is taken was that of Cowajee, a Mahratta of the cast of husbandmen. He was a bullock driver with the English army, in the war of 1792, and was made a prisoner by Tippoo, who cut off his nose, and one of his hands. In this state he joined the Bombay army near Seringapatam, and is now a prisoner of the Honourable East India Company. For above twelve months he remained without a nose, when he had a new one put on by a Mahratta surgeon at Kumar near Poona.

1. Figure of the skin taken from the forehead.

2 & 3. From the alæ of the new nose.

4. The septem of the new nose.

5 The slip left undivided.

666. The incision into which the edge of the skin is ingrafted.

7. The plate of wax when flattened.

88. The plate of wax in the form of a nose.

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ASTHMA.

Asthma is a disease, which, when of any standing makes itself well known to the patient; however, as it is often mistaken upon its first visit, we will describe the unwelcome guest, in order that if it cannot be altogether turned out, it may at least be well watched to keep it from doing harm. It comes on with difficulty of breathing, a particular wheezing, with a sense of tightness in the chest. First, there is a difficult cough, which at the latter end is attended with copious spitting of mucus. The disease is called *dry* or *humid* asthma, as it is attended with expectoration or not—the dry is the worst, and should be always reduced to the latter if possible, which is to be done by keeping the body warm, blistering the chest, bathing the legs in warm water at night, and taking the following

Expectorating Pills.

Of Squill pill, one drachm,
Calomel, ten grains,
Antimonial powder, twenty grains, made into twenty pills—the dose is one at night.

In short, by following the directions given in common cough, page 7, Expectoration will be brought on.

Asthma may arise spontaneously, or may be hereditary: or it may be occasioned by driving in some eruption from the skin, such as itch; or from the sudden stopping of some usual evacuation—sanguinary piles for instance. If from the latter cause, bleeding will be necessary to begin with—if from the throwing in of eruptions, the following should be taken to begin the cure.

Of calomel, six grains,
Gambouge, ten grains.
Extract of colocynth, ten grains—made into 16 pills.

One or two of these to be taken every six hours until the bowels become freely relaxed. The remainder of the cure will be applicable to asthma, from whatever cause it arises. The above pills ought to be employed during the disease at intervals to open the bowels. The paroxysm is generally worse towards morning, when the patient sleeps but little and cannot breathe but with difficulty when lying down. We know a gentleman, who in this stage of disease, found no relief in the paroxysm, except from drinking an immoderate quantity of strong coffee. This is worth trying, for coffee is beneficial in asthma, and recommended by our oldest physicians. Blisters, frequently repeated on the chest are excellent; and when the patient gets better, a warm plaster made of Burgundy pitch should be worn on the breast, or between the shoulders, or both; the decoction of rue drank occasionally is a good assistant. But either of the following mixtures must be taken two or three times a day during the disease.

Of milk of gum ammoniac, six ounces,
Tincture of squills, three drachms,
Tincture of digitalis, one drachm,
Syrup of tolu, one ounce—mix them and take one table spoonfull occasionally, at the distance of three, four, or five hours; or of carbonate of ammonica, two drachms,
Vinegar of squills, half an ounce,
Syrup of tolu, one ounce,
Common water, eight ounces—mix them. This is to be used as the foregoing, if preferred.

Let the drink be whey: to make which, see page 7, and the food must be light, and taken in a moderate quantity. Let there be free air in the apartment, but warm: and when the patient is able, riding is the best exercise, but good air is the sheet anchor.

We have now spoken of the disease, considering it in the ordinary stages, and for which it would be endless expence and trouble to have medical attendance; but when the following symptoms appear, an experienced practioner is necessary.

If the patient finds great debility present—that the paroxysm lasts longer than usual—that the countenance becomes paler or darker—that he is very feverish after dinner, or about 4 or 5 o'clock in the evening, that the legs swell, and that great flatulency and indigestion, with increased difficulty of breathing exist—then lose no time in sending for medical assistance.

Observe to avoid opiates and malt liquor, not only during the disease, but even when convalescent; also, avoid smoking tobacco, for the smoke cannot *improve* the air breathed. Assifœtida pills are good to take occasionally, not only during the disease, but when recovered, particularly by old people. To this important disease we shall often recur.

NATURAL BALDNESS—BALDNESS FROM FEVER.

Baldness is often hereditary, often depending upon acquired peculiarity in the constitution, and often from fever, and other diseases. In the first case no remedy will either prevent it, or restore it. We know a family, the males of which became bald so early as the age of twenty-five, and the youngest gave every trial to the advertised remedies against baldness, as well as to many physicians' advices; but notwithstanding his unremitting attention to this point his hair fell off, as did his brother's, father's, uncle's, and grandfather's. Baldness which arises from

acquired peculiarity in the constitution, however, may he prevented—by this species—we mean, when it occurs in people whose families have not been inclined to it. When the hair of such begin to grow thin, they should look out for a remedy, and not to wait until baldness is completely established, for that having once occurred from undefined causes, not all the phalanx of quack restoratives will produce a single hair. Where baldness occurs from fever or any other disease, there is more hope for restoration in the hair, and it becomes justifiable to attempt it by the following

REMEDIES TO PREVENT AND CURE BALDNESS.

BRUISE a quantity of *burdock roots* in a mortar, and then boil the mass in white wine (any kind) until the liquor is half boiled away. Strain it off, and wash the head every night with some of it *warm*.

2d. Rub a fresh cut onion upon the head until the bald part becomes red, and itches.

3d. Take the juice of turnips, and add to it a little of the juice of squills and some white wine—wash the head every night with this, and use the onion in the morning.

4th. Common lard half an ounce. —Balsam of Peru one drachm.—Oil of cloves or pimento half an ounce, mix them, and anoint the head at night with it.

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But the time to attack baldness is before it has made itself master. When it first appears by the dropping off of a few hairs every day, and thus thins the formerly luxurious locks, is the proper time to apply remedies. We disapprove of oils in general, and we think that to wash the roots of the hair clearly with ardent spirits, or Eau de Cologne—strong brandy or rum, perhaps is best—every night—or once a week (provided the head is not naturally greasy) the fourth remedy above named may be used to moisten and soften the hair. A great argument against oleaginous and unctuous applications to the head is that we usually see bald men fat in seven cases out of ten, and in summer particularly their heads become more greasy than other men. If any thing will prevent baldness, it is the latter plan mentioned here; that is, keeping the roots of the hair clean with ardent spirits.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN,

[CONTINUED.]

Infant's Sore Eyes.

This disease very commonly attacks infants with great violence, and sometimes so soon after birth that many think it is born with them; but this is not the case; the cause is either cold, or the accident of spirits getting into the eyes—that being frequently used in washing them. Keeping the child too near the fire, or exposing it to sudden draughts of air, will often cause this disease. The symptoms soon manifest themselves in swelling and redness of the eyelids, from which soon discharges a purulent fluid and the child becomes exceedingly cross. The cure is simple, and may be performed by the mother if she attends strictly to the subsequent directions.

Let a spoonfull of castor oil, or three grains of rhubarb with five of magnesia be given immediately, then foment the eyes and temples with a weak decoction of camomile flowers, (half a handfull to a quart of water) at a moderate heat. Let the apartment be kept of an equal warmth. The fomentation should be repeated several times—but observe never to waken the child for that purpose—the more sleep the better. When this has been continued for two days bathe the eyes immediately after the fomentation for a moment or two with the following—

EYE WATER FOR CHILDREN.

Of sulphate of zinc a scruple,
Common water half a pint—shake them both.

THIS lotion will cost only *a penny*, and is perhaps the best eye-water that can be got. To make it fit for a grown person, merely add half an ounce of laudanum. In using it with the infant, it will be only necessary to wet the eyelids once or twice at a time, with a bit of linen rag, and let the eye-water be made a little warm. If the child he carefully kept from cold, and the above

mode adopted, there exists scarcely a doubt of a cure. The castor oil powder should be repeated every three or four days. We shall treat of *convulsions* in our next paper on the diseases of children.

ON MODERN BREAKFASTS.

TEA, COFFEE, &c.

THE effects of England's riches and refinement is no where more strongly seen, than in our modern breakfasts. Money begets a wish for enjoyment, that produces late hours; late hours late suppers; and late suppers the shadow of a breakfast. How different were our ancestors! They rose early and breakfasted heartily, and thus laid in their youth a foundation for long life. What would a modern fine lady say to see such a meal as the following laid before her at six o'clock in the morning? We copy it from an old work on the manners and customs of the fifteenth century, by Edward Muller. It is a tavern bill from a landlord in "the good city of Chester."

Breakfast provisiones for Syr Godfrey Walton, the good Ladie Walton, and their fair daughter Gabriel.

3 pounds of saved salmon
2 pounds of boiled mutton and onions.
3 slices of porke.
6 red herringes.
6 pounds of leavened bread.
1 choppin of mead.
5 choppines of strong beer!

Compare this with the modern breakfast—one or two cups of green tea, with a wafer slice of bread and butter, the half of which is left in the saucer; and perhaps taken *in bed* at 11 or 12 o'clock! It is now become fashionable to have no appetite in the morning, particularly among the ladies. We were present some time ago when a fine fat city dame, who had just returned from Margate with a budget of new airs and graces, and whose appearance bespoke full health and power of stomach, turned to one who sat next to her at breakfast, and with a stand-up brow of astonishment asked her, "did she really *eat* at breakfast!" Had we the spirit of Dr. Johnson we should have had a chapter with her on the subject, for our inclination was that way; but we let it pass with a groan.

Although we do not approve of the flimsy meal now called a breakfast, yet we must differ with many of our medical brethren, and decline joining in the outcry against tea and coffee. We think both are excellent, and *tea* in particular: but not in the way they are used or rather *mis*used at present. There is no positive nutriment in either; but they indirectly effect health beneficially, taken in a proper manner. Let a fair portion of food be taken first, and then use them as a refreshing beverage. Nothing lightens the spirits more than a cup of good tea, and with some, coffee also; but let neither be made the material of the breakfast. We think a couple of eggs or some cold meat ought always to precede; and tea or coffee wash it down. Those who lie long in the morning cannot eat, nor can those who have eaten a late and heavy supper; but those who can eat should never sit down to breakfast without meat of some description. Tea taken in the evening being after a good dinner, on the same principle does no harm; but on an empty stomach it is poison. The green teas are considered by the faculty as most unwholesome: with this opinion we join, *if the green tea is taken without food;* but as a refresher it surpasses the black. The best is considered to be *souchong*, as it is not so narcotic as the greens—The truth comes into a nutshell—eat hearty at breakfast before you take tea and then it is immaterial whether you use green or black. In the evening, we take it for granted you have eaten hearty at dinner. Taking tea late at night is a common practice with those who study, or sit up for other purposes. This is a tax upon their constitutions like all other stimulants.

Chocolate is one of the best liquids for breakfast, but after *that* we would recommend a cup of tea. Cocoa is good when made with milk; and those who cannot eat meat in the morning should use that or chocolate. We will now consider the late introduction.

BREAKFAST POWDER—ROASTED GRAIN.

This is a most useful consequence of Mr. Hunt's political malignity, and in bringing it up he took good care not to forget *himself;* for he still continues to charge the public the patriotic profit of ten-pence halfpenny in every shilling! However the introduction of roasted grain notwithstanding his *grinding* avarice entitles him to the thanks of the public. It is a good substitute for coffee with the English, who in general, to say the truth, never knew how to make coffee. The grain should not be burnt too much, for, if so, it will be not only rendered less nutritive, but more bitter; and the latter fault is the greatest it possesses. There is more nutrition in this powder than in coffee, if well burnt; that is so, as not to destroy completely the gluten, mucilage and saccharine matter of the grain; and we recommend it strongly to the public; at the same time reminding them of what we stated in speaking of tea; that is, to *eat hearty with it.* We are now about to try some experiments on burning it to improve its flavour, and shall state the result in our next number.

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THE OPERATION OF BRONCHOTOMY;

OR, CUTTING THE THROAT TO RESTORE AN APPARENTLY SUFFOCATED PERSON.

Successfully performed by Dr. Philip Crampton, of Dublin.

When the opening into the trachea or windpipe is stopped up by accident or disease, so that air cannot pass into the lungs, the only means of preventing immediate suffocation, admitting that the obstruction cannot be removed, is to make an incision into the inferior part of it near the top of the sternum or breast-bone, and by cutting out a small square bit of the cartilage, thus admit the air; which opening will carry on respiration as well as the natural one, and support life until the obstruction be removed. It is an operation which requires a quick and dexterous hand, and there is one fatal danger attending it when performed by an unskilful operator; namely, carrying the first incision down too far, and thus wounding the large vein which takes the blood into the vena cava or great vein of the heart, for it lies just behind the top of the breast-bone: this has occurred sometimes, but with whom there must have been a sad ignorance of the anatomy of those parts. A case happened at Dublin some time ago, where the operation was performed successfully by Dr. Philip Crampton, the present surgeon-general, who, as an operator, is in no way inferior to Richerand, Dupuytren, or Sir Astley Cooper,—possessing the profound judgment and knowledge of the two former, with the decision and elegance of the latter. This, our opinion, is from critical observation, for we have seen all these gentlemen operate frequently.*

The case alluded to is as follows: A waiter at Morison's hotel, Dawson Street, with the praiseworthy intention, perhaps, of not expending that valuable time upon his own dinner which might be more lucratively bestowed upon his master's guests, and feeling at the same time, the natural calls of his gastric organs, swallowed most voraciously in the passage from the dining-room to the kitchen, an unlucky wedge of beefsteak, wholly unmasticated; and the reason why he neglected this necessary process of digestion, as we have since learnt, was lest the movement of his jaws might betray his selfishness. However, his delicate prudence on this point, proved of serious consequences, for, had not Dr. Crampton resided opposite the hotel, this victim of good intentions and bad taste, would have never more cried "Coming Sir."

The poor fellow, feeling that he could not breathe, ran into the kitchen, where in a few seconds he fell, surrounded by the other servants, who thought it was "a fit." A few moments terminated his convulsive strug-

* We have seen Dr. Crampton's Pamphlet against Hohenlohe's nonsense, and recommend it to all who yet have a doubt of his miracle-making power. We perhaps may give, in a future number, the matter and spirit of it. And we have no doubt that it will cure more patients of the miracle disease, than all the prayers of this prince of humbugs.

gles, and he lay apparently dead—black in the face—eyes distorted, and all pulsation gone. Dr. Crampton having been sent for, arrived at this moment. On looking into the man's mouth, he ascertained the cause of the suffocation, instantly opened the trachea at its lower end, and cut out a small piece of the cartilage; but nervous power was too far gone to act upon respiration.

The doctor was determined not to give up without trying the artificial movement of the lungs in the hope of exciting a natural one. He therefore introduced a quill into the wound, and blowing strongly through it, inflated, by force, the lungs; which inflation he expelled gently, by pressing on the breast and ribs: this he repeated, so as to carry on an artificial breathing. The operation was crowned with complete success; for about the seventh or eighth inflation, the patient's pulse returned and a slight sob gave notice that the muscles began to act;—a minute or two brought the man into full life. Dr. Crampton now removed the piece of beef from the top of the wind-pipe, where it was closely jammed, by passing a long quill upward, through the aperture made below, and so pushing it against the piece of beef, relieved the throat immediately, for the obstructing matter was ejected. The patient was conveyed to Meath Hospital, where the attention of the Doctor soon restored him completely; the wound healed in a few days, and the waiter once more resumed his professional duties. He has ever since been as strong an advocate as Mr. Abernethy, for thorough mastication; and never fails to recommend it to his master's customers, whenever he is called upon to relate the accident which had so nearly cost him his life.

The operation of Bronchotomy, is a most useful one. It may be necessary, in cases where persons have swallowed vitriol or boiling water, as the burning and inflammation of the throat may act so as to shut up the aperture as effectually as a wedge. Or it may be sometimes required in Chynanche or throat Quinsy, when the inflammation runs high. None ought to die of suffocation from swallowing any substance while there is a surgeon at hand; even if he should have no instruments but a penknife and a pair of scissors. It is an operation which surgeons would do well to practice, either upon the dead subject or upon dogs, until they become expert at it; for nothing tends to make a surgeon's character more than a case like the above;—besides its great utility.

SIR ASTLEY COOPER'S SHIN-SCRAPING OUTSTORIED.

A judicious lecturer, on any subject except divinity, does well to enliven his auditory occasionally with a little humour: it is like wine upon a journey. On this principle, Sir Astley Cooper told his pupils a tough story the other day about a man, who, to beautify his person, applied to a surgeon to cut down his bandy shins. Our lecturer finding that his *scraping* music pleased, continued to draw out his *long bow*, until he came to a glorious climax of harmony; the report of which, however, grated our ears a little. He gave us a long detail of—how the surgeon laid open the leg, and with a sharp instrument did scrape and scrape; and that when the surgeon was tired, the father of the suffering Adonis most manfully relieved him, and worked himself into a heat upon the said shin-bone; and that the father of the patient being unable to proceed farther, the man *himself* did set to work, until by dint of labour the *bandy* was banished, and beauty alighted on the legs! That as fast as the legs were made handsome, deformity took possession of the citadel, the bone sprouted up as high as ever, till at last, forsooth, the renowned Sir Astley, with his *lance* and lint, came to the sufferer's relief, and like a true and gallant knight, succeeded in rescuing the victim from the shin-scraping surgeon!

This is all very well as a whetting story for the pupils and for the public in general, but it is too tough to pass down the œsophagus of the faculty. It is humorous and satyrical, and it is illustrative of the

growth of bone; but had it taken place, it would have illustrated also (woefully for the patient) the exfoliation of bone as well perhaps as the mortification of the soft parts. The fact is, Sir Astley never intended it to go abroad; and we should be glad to hear the *story* from the surgeon who is said to have so scraped the shins: we dare wager the hare would turn out a cat. Independent of the numerous small arteries which run through the *tibia* or shin bone, and of the bleeding of which not a word is said, the lamina of the bone would be soon scraped through, and the cellular part exposed to the instrument! This to have been still scraped down to half an inch or so, must have gone pretty near the marrow—and it must have gone that depth to have straightened the legs; to say nothing of the cutting of the periosteum or membrane which adheres to the bone, and which produces the bone itself! One of the ancient surgeons, (of Italy we think—but no matter) in arguing upon the adhesion of simple incised wounds, gravely tells us a story like Sir Astley's; and both we think have claims to the same degree of credit. The tale is this:—Two dragoons having been quarrelling in the street at night, one of them cut off the other's nose with his sword. The wounded man went to a neighbouring surgeon, who asked him where was his nose? The dragoon replied he supposed it was on the ground where they fought. The surgeon then desired him to go back and fetch it, when, after poking about in the mud for a good half hour he found it. Being late and no water to be procured, the surgeon desired him to wash it by • • • ! This was accordingly done, and the excicated nose thus *nicely* cleaned, was replaced upon its parent earth and carefully *stitched* up! However, in the confusion,—natural enough upon such an occasion, a most unlucky mistake occurred, and that was neither more nor less than stitching the nose on the *wrong way!* Better have no nose, than have one's nostrils filled at every shower of rain. The dragoon too, had another reason for objection:—he took snuff, and he knew well that if the nose remained in its reversed position, he would be ruined in rapee alone, his nostrils would be absolutely two snuff-canisters, which he might be eternally filling! He therefore on discovering the unhappy mistake, submitted to have the nose ripped off and carefully stitched on again! Wonderful to relate the nose adhered, and the surgeon got unbounded reputation! Neither Prince Hohenlohe nor Sir Astley could have done better.

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PHYSICIANS OF SPAIN.

It is generally believed, perhaps universally in England, that the physicians of Spain are not so respectable a body as those of this country, or of France. That they are not so wealthy as the former, nor as consequential as the latter, may be allowed; but as a profession, protected as they are, by laws, to support their rank, and exclude ignorant pretenders, they are not inferior in respectability to their other European brethren. The Times newspaper in 1820, stated that the fee of a Spanish physician was three reals *(about ninepence:)* and the paragraph was copied without comment into most of the country papers. What the Times stated was true; but his informant withheld that part of the story which ought not to have been separated from it. He perhaps, in passing through Spain, saw the money paid, or was informed such was the amount of a doctor's fee, and told the matter as he got it, when he came home to England. We are happy to be able to add what he left out; and thus relieve our Spanish medical Cofreres from undeserved contempt.

The physicians of Spain are upon an establishment somewhat like our clergy; they possess livings of different gradations, from one to five hundred a year. Each, on being approved of by the examiners, is according to his interest and talent appointed to a certain village or town, for which he receives a yearly salary. He is obliged

to visit all the sick of his district, and cannot demand a greater fee than three reals; but this he is allowed. If however, his fame becomes extended, and he is sent for to any post out of his district, then his fees are unlimited, and we have known so high as thirty guineas to have been given. By this wise regulation of the Spanish government the poor are not driven to quacks and hospitals, but receive every necessary attention from their proper officer of health, for very little expense, and the physicians are all supported in their proper rank. The surgeons, however, are not so respectable as we could wish.

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USEFUL HINTS TO EPICURES AND GREAT EATERS.

Epicures and those people who make eating their particular study and delight, are next to the habitual drunkard, on the high road to disease and death. A short life and a merry one is their motto, and off they gallop out of this world, as if they were running to a feast in the next. However, none love a good dinner, or a good glass of wine more than ourselves; but it is to use both with moderation. No one can deny, that good and rich viands produce strength and health, but it is only when they are taken in a moderate way. A man may sit down to a dinner of countless covers, and he may taste of many without injury to his health, but let him *not excite himself to eat* on any account. Let him eat slowly of any thing at the English table, and leave off rather with a desire for more, than with a stomach that is crammed to the top. If he does this, digestion will go on better by having room, and he will then have truly enjoyed his meal.

It can be no pleasure to have a restless night, a dry mouth in the morning, and a relish for nothing on earth, the consequences of inordinate eating, to say nothing of the diseases which follow. We merely throw out these observations, to serve as cautions against improper eating. We will go more particularly into the subject, when treating of the disease of plethora, or excessive fat, and of indigestion.

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ESSAY ON THE PROPERTIES OF AIR.

The air is a thin fluid which encompasses the globe of the earth on all sides, revolves along with it round its axis, and attends it on its annual journey round the sun. If a peach be supposed to represent the earth, the air will be aptly signified by the down growing on its surface.

This body of air, together with the clouds and vapours that float in it, are called the atmosphere; and it reaches about forty-five miles above the ground before it degenerates into too thin an ether for any creature to breathe; this is known by measuring with a barometer, the weight of the atmosphere in a low valley, and on a high mountain, and may be familiarized by supposing a thousand fleeces of wool, one piled upon another, when the lowest will be greatly compressed or squeezed together, next not so much, the next not so much as that, till we come to the uppermost which will be in its natural loose state. The air, by being elastic, and partaking of the earth's attraction, is necessarily drawn into a progressive state like this.

The air is so subtile that it pervades the pores of all bodies, and enters into the composition of most animal and vegetable substances; yet it is a body, because it excludes all other bodies from the place it possesses, if so confined that it cannot escape; hence the origin of the diving bell; for if we sink a bell or wine glass in water, with the mouth open downwards, little water will make its way into it; and a person may descend and live in a diving bell so long as to take up wrecks at a considerable depth if he be kept constantly supplied with fresh air; and that made noxious by his breathing be let out by the proper apparatus.

The air has all the properties by which a fluid is distinguished; it yields to the slightest impression, it parts more easily among one another, and animals breathe and move through it without any difficulty. Yet it has four singularities which distinguish it from most fluids: first, it can be compressed in a less space than it natu-

rally possesses. Second: can occupy a greater space than it naturally possesses. Third: it cannot be congealed or frozen. Fourth: it is of different density in every part upward.

As the air is a body it must needs have weight: this is proved—first, by its pressing the hand that covers the top of an exhausted receiver. Second, a bottle that holds a wine quart being emptied of air, and weighed, is found to be about seventeen grains lighter than when it is full of air; so that a quart of air on the earth's surface is seventeen grains. Fourth, if a wet bladder be tied over the top of an open receiver, then set to dry, and after, the air exhausted from under it, the air's weight will then burst the bladder with a surprising report. Third, if a hole be made in the bottom of a cup, and have a bit of dry hazel or willow branch fixed into it, and this be put into a hole on the top of a receiver; when quicksilver is poured into the cup, and the air exhausted from the receiver, the quicksilver will be forced through the pores of the branch by the weight of the incumbent air, and will fall in a curious shower into the receiver. Fourth, if the air be exhausted out of two brass hemispheres about twelve inches area, it will require a force equal to 180 pounds to separate them.

To prove that these effects are not produced by suction, and that there is no such principle in nature. First, if a pump be placed in water under a receiver, and the air exhausted, no water can be made to rise in the pump. Second, if two moveable plates be fixed on the pump plate, with communications between them that can be stopped by cocks, if the air is exhausted out of a receiver placed on one of them, and then a receiver placed on the other, and the communication opened, half the air in the last will by its spring make its way into the first receiver, and both shall be fixed to the plates.

The elastic quality or spring of the air is to be proved in the following ways—viz. If an almost empty bladder be put under a receiver, and the air exhausted, the springing of the air in the bladder will then shew itself by swelling out the bladder as if it were blown. Second, if a little of the shell be cut off from the small end of an egg, and the egg put under a receiver, on exhausting, the bubble of air in the big end of the egg will expand itself, and drive out the contents of the egg. Third, if a fish in water be put under a receiver, and the air exhausted, its air bladder will swell the fish, so as to make it specifically lighter than water; and of course the fish will be buoyed up to the surface Fourth, if a cubic inch of dry wood in warm water be put under the receiver, and the air exhausted, large and innumerable bubbles of air will come out of the wood, and make the water seem to boil; and in this manner may air be drawn visibly out of the hardest bodies. Fifth, a withered apple in an exhausted receiver will be plumped up, and look quite fresh, by the spring of the air inside; and if a fresh one be pricked all over with a bodkin, and put in water under a receiver, on exhausting, it will appear as if roasted by the fire. Sixth, if a little air be tied up in a bladder, and put into a convenient vessel with weights upon it, on exhausting the air, the spring of the air in the bladder will lift the weights, and shew that its spring is equally forcible with its pressure; therefore though a middle sized man sustains above 30,000lb. weight on his person, yet the equal spring of the air within him makes him insensible of it.

Heat and cold, or the presence or absence of fire are the usual causes of the air's rarefaction and condensation. If the air be heated, it swells; so that the space it possessed before it was heated will contain fewer particles than it did in its cold state. Wind must be the necessary consequences of this; for by what means soever the equilibrium of the air is destroyed, its neighbouring parts will never be at rest until the balance is restored. Hence the reason why air rushes so violently into a glass house, into a close room with a great fire in it, &c. from which, by the bye, arise many diseases. When the sun's heat is encreased by the reflection of sands, or the sides of rocky mountains, &c. the air will be rarefied; and, by the rushing in of the colder neighbouring air

will be forced up into the higher part of the atmosphere as light smoke is forced up a chimney by the heavier air. If a large cloud keep the sun's rays from the air under it, but rarefies all that around it, a wind will rush from beneath the cloud in all directions. Upon this principle also we account for the trade winds which constantly blow from the east to the west about the equator; for, as the sun passes over the earth in that direction, and rarefies the air as he goes, the colder air will rush after him, and cause the trade winds; if they be not diverted by volcanos, burning sands, &c. Hence also the monsoons, the day and night breeze on the islands in the West Indies, the wind from west to east on the coast of Guinea, and the currents of Florida, Gibraltar, &c. Thus we see how admirable these properties of the air coincide with the general scheme of the creation. Its powers in supporting man's life shall be shewn when treating on respiration, which shall soon follow.

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MOTHERS' SUCKLING THEIR INFANTS AT GUILDFORD TREAD-MILL.

We are requested by a humane correspondent, a surgeon of the first respectability, to turn our attention again to the females tread-mill;—this we feel our duty, so long as humanity is deaf to our appeals. For the present, we cannot do better than to publish his letter to us; and we regret the writer's modesty will not permit us to put his name to it, for we think he deserves to be known and honored by every one.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

The enclosed slip * is a copy of a letter that appeared in the Morning Post of Nov. 22, and was copied out into most of the daily papers.—Any rational man would have thought that the notoriety this shocking fact thus immediately attained, would have operated to the liberation of the poor wretch condemned to a punishment so horribly out of all proportion to her offence; but was it the case?—Since this letter appeared in print, another female under the same circumstances, has been committed to the same gaol, so that *there are now toiling at Guildford tread-wheel, two mothers giving suck, their infants each no more than three months old; who, from the diminution of the mother's milk, produced by the exhausting nature of their labour, are in a state of starvation, which, combined with exposure to the cold, causes them to be incessantly crying!* I beseech you, Sir, for the sake of humanity, to address yourself in your medical character to Mr. Peel, and not only call for the liberation from this torture of these poor creatures and their unoffending offspring, but to demand, in the name of outraged humanity, the dismissal of the committing magistrate. Such things are past endurance or pardon.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
* * * *

Who can read this letter and not feel indignation at the conduct of those heartless beings, who have been the cause of such outrage? Where are the philanthropic and the supporters of national character that they have not interfered? Many of them have the ear of Mr. Peel, which we are certain is never shut against the voice of humanity, and it is well known, that magistrates have no more favour in his eyes than other men. We hope that those newspapers which find their way to the breakfast-tables of *high authority*, will lend their powerful assistance to the abolition of this abuse. Let them consider our *medical* arguments upon the subject, and let them consult with their *own* medical friends upon the truth and justice of them, and we are convinced that their assistance (which would soon decide the affair,) will not be wanting.

* *To the Editor of the Morning Post.*

Sir—There is at, this time, toiling at the tread-wheel in Guildford gaol, *a mother giving suck.* Her *crime* is her inability to support her infant which is illegitimate; and she is placed at the same wheel as the felons; while she treads, some relieved treader, out of common humanity, holds her infant. I dare not trust my pen to express my sentiments on this fact, but the public, when they hear of it, will not, I trust, impose on themselves that restraint which I find necessary in my own case. I attach my address to this statement for your private satisfaction of its veracity.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,
Nov. 20th, 1823, JULIUS.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

No. I.

TWYNAM, the bone setter and "general doctor," Kingsland-road.

THIS fellow, although not first of the "*profession*," is however one of the oldest humbuggers we have. He has been upwards of forty years practising his inspired knowledge, and was therefore in the field long before his existing brotherhood of London: on that account we give him the first place in our Quack's corner; assuring those "gentlemen" who are to follow "Doctor" Twynam that they will be certain to meet with due consideration from us, although placed behind him. We hope "Doctor" Eady, Jordans', the Medical board of Charlotte street, and the Newington "*Army*" medical establishment will not feel offended with us for thus giving Twynam the precedence. We promise that we will in proper time *shew them up*.

How long are the people of London to be gulled by impostors? It is more difficult to trick the savage Indians by pretence in medicine, than it is our own metropolitans! Were the list of Twynam's patients alone to be published, with their cases, mode of treatment, and their results, a monument of English credulity and stupidity would be transmitted to posterity, which even our libraries of philosophy could not redeem. The following case of one unfortunate dupe is a specimen. We copy the report from "The News."

TWYNAM, *v.* COOK.

King's Bench, Guildhall, October, 23, 1823.

This was an action to recover 22*l*. Mr. Twynam practised for forty years. An attempt was made to prove that he was deficient in skill—he trusted the jury would discountenance it. The son stated that his father practised the cure of "white swellings and many other things at 52, Kingsland-road." The defendant used to call upon him to dress his leg for eight or nine months. Cross-examined by Mr. Gurney—Your father was a leather breeches maker? Yes, Sir. He has all his knowledge of Surgery by inspiration? Yes: he cures by the blessing of God (!) (a laugh) And his patients bring their own bottles? Mr. Cook did I believe. (!)

A person calling himself a Surgeon was then brought forward to prove that "Doctor" Twynam was capable of practising surgery. (We are astonished that any regularly educated surgeon could lend himself to such an impostor.) Mr. Gurney then addressed the jury. This, he said, was the impudent action of an impudent Quack, who from making of leather breeches had made himself a surgeon, to the cost of those who were silly enough to confide in his ridiculous pretensions. He then read the card of the plaintiff, by which he proposed to cure the most dreadful disorders "*near the Crooked Billet*," and ended a pompous enumeration by N. B. *Warts cured!* (Laughter) On the other side was a statement of "marvellous cures," among which was that of a woman fifteen times discharged from the hospital incurable (!) When Mr. Cook went to this pretender, he had a slight pain and relaxation in his leg, requiring nothing but rest, and the Quack gave him a blister and a caustic, tormented him with distressing applications, and left him at the end of the time much worse than he found him. When a patient complained of pain, he said, "O very well—you must suffer pain; the more the better:" and so if he died, that, on the same principle would be the very triumph of surgery. (A loud laugh.) The jury immediately returned a verdict for the defendant.

So much for "Doctor" Twynam—and so much for his patients. Let Quack-hunting people take a lesson from Mr. Cook's leg, and theirs will never carry them inside one of the impostor's doors.—Eady in our next.

N.B. The Editor will be thankful for any information relative to the Quacks of London, or quackery in general.

EXPERIMENTS UPON FISH,

Proving the Necessity of breaking the Ice upon the Surfaces of Fish-Ponds.

THE gills of fish answer to the same

ends as the lungs in other animals: they oxygenate or prepare the blood for circulation through the body: and although they cannot exist in our atmosphere—that is, our air alone is not capable of sustaining life in them—yet they cannot live without it. They breathe like other animals.

The following experiments will prove the necessity of air to their existence; from which may be deduced a good practical hint to those who possess fish-ponds, and which, in the approaching frosty season, may be of use. Three gudgeons, which are very brisk and lively fish, were put into a glass vessel containing about three pints of common water. Into another, containing a like quantity of water, were put three more, which quantity just filled this glass to the brim; upon this a brass plate with leather between was screwed down to prevent a communication between the water in the glass and the external air, and that it might better resemble a pond of water frozen over as little air as possible was suffered to remain upon the surface of the included water. A third glass had a like quantity of water put into it as the former, which water, first, by boiling, then by continuing it a whole night *in vacuo* on the air pump, was purged of its air to the greatest nicety. Into this water also were put a like number of gudgeons as into the other; thus the fishes being all put into their respective receivers, the event was as follows: in about half an hour the fishes in the water, purged of its air, began to discover some uneasiness, by a more than ordinary motion in their mouths and gills, or respiration, if it may be so called, differing from the fishes in the other glasses, which discovered no alteration, save sometimes ascending to the surface, and suddenly swimming down again: and in this state they continued for some considerable time without any sensible alteration. About five hours after the last observation the fishes in the exhausted water became less active, upon a motion given the glass that contained them, as before: and those gudgeons included without any communication with the outward air now began to lose their vivacity, yet continued at times their motions upward and down again. In four hours more the included fishes lay at the bottom of the glasses with no other motion but a movement of the gills; and with their bellies upwards. The fishes in the glass which was exposed to the air, suffered no change whatever. The air was now admitted to the water of both glasses, as the fish otherwise must have died, and in a few hours they were all as lively as before. The fishes in the water which was deprived of its air, and those in the water merely included from external air, shewed no different effects except that the former never so much as once ascended to the surface.

We recommend our readers in cases of fish-ponds being frozen over, to break holes at opposite sides; if the ponds have a current passing through, it will not be necessary.

CURIOUS TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION

Practised upon the daughter of the Dey of Algiers.

When the Algerines are upon friendly terms with the English, it is a practice with the Dey to send to the Governor of Gibraltar, in case of any particular sickness in his family, for one of the British medical officers; a request which is never refused. In the year 1808, the daughter of this piratical chief was taken ill, and an application being made for an English surgeon, the Governor dispatched one of the assistants of the garrison. Upon his arrival at Algiers, he found the patient suffering from an inflammation of the leg, which from the want of proper treatment, had become so violent as to endanger her life. On enquiry he learned that nothing whatever had been administered internally; but that her medical attendants, four old men, whose outward appearance, like some of our own doctors, denoted wonderful wisdom, contented themselves with outward applications of the most absurd kind, one of which was a bandage of white silk, on which was written by the "*Physicians*" several mystic characters. The young

surgeon was introduced, whose debonnaire and military appearance contrasted with the gravity, apparent wisdom, and long white beards of the barbarous medical junta, gave no very favourable hopes to the other attendants of the lady, who believed nothing could be done by a doctor without a beard. Notwithstanding the danger which threatened the princess, her "*Physicians*," faithful to that principle which is not altogether confined to the learned professions, wished to preserve their reputation at any risk, and accordingly demanded of the Dey to be permitted to administer one remedy before the christian should take their patient in hand. This was granted. The princess was immediately placed in the middle of her apartment upon cushions, and the "Physicians" proceeded to walk slowly round her, each holding the garment of the one before him, and repeating unintelligible sentences with seeming devotion. This mummery lasted about ten minutes; when they retired to an adjoining apartment and, there, consulted for four hours—during which time the lady suffered extremely! Upon their return they declared that they had discovered the true nature of the disease, and also an effectual remedy. Delight and approbation glistened in all eyes, and many already congratulated them upon their success.—Now for the wonderful cure. They procured six greyhound puppies of three days old, which they selected from others on account of peculiar marks, and having muttered something over them, they *in the presence of the patient* pounded them alive into a mass! This was applied to the inflamed leg with due ceremony, and the lady was left undisturbed, except by the pain of her leg, for the night. The poultice was removed next day, but the poor sufferer alas! was worse, and the "*wise men*" notwithstanding their gravity and long beards, were thrown into disgrace. Our young surgeon now commenced freely with the lancet, administered saline purgatives, &c. &c. and the good effects soon manifested themselves. In less than a fortnight she was well, and the Dey rewarded her preserver with two fine Arabian horses and his most hearty thanks.

—

The Mode in which Bleeding, Cupping and Blisters act upon the Constitution and Disease.

BLEEDING.

ALTHOUGH we cannot think with Monsr. Broussais that every disease in the catalogue is *inflammation, only modified by different circumstances*, yet we will readily allow that most of the painful diseases are attended with inflammation more or less. Broussais's new-fangled doctrine has made woeful havock amongst his debilitated patients at Paris; for if a delicate and nervous female apply to him for a ray from his new light, he instantly indulges her with a copious bleeding, and an antiphogestic prescription. He is as fond of this plan as Abernethy is of *blue pill*, who employs it upon all occasions from fracture of the cranium down to mortification of the toes and feet. Inflammation is the hobby of one, and indigestion the hobby of the other; but in their movements Broussais's must break down a hundred times for one slip of Abernethy's. However, to our subject; the *modus operandi* of bleeding We will not here point out cases or classes of disease which require bleeding, we reserve this for its proper place; but merely shew through what means it affects the system.

The column of blood which the heart and arteries contain is supplied by the veins, and this blood at every pulsation of the heart is sent with considerable force throughout all the arteries even to the most minute: this action is also accelerated by an elastic power in the arteries themselves: when therefore inflammation takes place in any part of the body, the consequence is, that at every pulsation the patient feels a throb of pain in the part, and in proportion to the quantity of blood which causes this throb will be its intensity: so that it will appear a manifest relief to take away a part of that quantity in order that neither the heart nor the arteries may be distended, so as to oblige them to contract with proportionate force at every pulsation. If

then the strength of the pulsation is the cause of pain, surely to lessen it must have a proportionate good effect upon that pain. This is simply the manner in which bleeding operates.

CUPPING.

CUPPING although useful does not produce benefit to the extent that is generally imagined; nor is that benefit from the quantity of blood taken away by this operation more than it would be if the blood were taken from the arm. It has its good effect in the same ratio as bleeding with the lancet, and any additional advantage is to be attributed to the wounds it makes on the skin, and the force used in drawing the blood, which, acting on the principle of counter-irritation by the inflammation they excite, remove the pain from the neighbouring part. This also applies to leeches. To contend that it is as good to take blood by cupping or leeches (admitting that it is only the quantity taken that effects) is like saying that it is just as good a way to lessen the quantity of water in a tub by boring a few gimblet-holes in the side, as to dip a gallon into it at once, and so take it away. If there is an additional benefit attached to local bleeding over that of general, it is by the irritation it causes on the surface of the parts. We cannot lessen the action of any small artery without lessening that of the great trunks from which it proceeds. Morley, a practitioner at Lisbon, wrote a treatise in 1809, to prove that the bites of leeches were electrical when applied to the temples! The fact is, he knew it could not be from the small quantity of blood which two or three leeches drew, that the inflammatory action was changed; but it was too simple to account for it by counter-irritation; so he drew fire from Jupiter to enlighten us upon this point. Many of our London surgeons think equally as absurdly on topical bleeding: they suppose that it relieves the smaller tubes of the arteries of the part. Is there less water in one of our street-pipes after a pail or two or ten are drawn? If they will prove that pipe so to contain less, they may have their opinion.

BLISTERS.

THE principle on which blisters act is counter-irritation, and not by any medical power in the plaster. They irritate the surface of the body, producing heat and pain, thereby attracting nervous sensation to the parts where they are applied, and lessening it in those immediately about them. By a natural law in the animal economy, nervous feeling directs itself always to the greatest injury under which the body labours, abandoning, as it were, any lesser injury that may exist in it. Hence a man, who has just broken his leg, will feel nothing of any lighter complaint, which he might have suffered under previous to the fracture. Hence, also, one whose fingers are scarcely moveable without pain, from having the skin stripped off, will, by excitement, shut his fists and fight as if his fingers were sound; his mind being under a greater injury—real or imaginary, than excoriated knuckles.

The tooth-ache vanishes when the tooth extracter appears, which takes place from mere anticipation of a greater pain than the one endured. So the nerves instinctively engage themselves to the partial irritation of a blister, and, as it were, forget to act in the surrounding parts. How often do blisters relieve only for a short time? When the blistered parts heal the pain will sometimes return to its former seat: as in disease of the knee-joint; therefore, savin ointment is used to dress the blistered knee, in order to keep it discharging by its irritation. The issue, which is more successfully employed in this disease, acts in the same way, but with far greater power; the pain of the caustic which forms the issue being so much greater than a blister. The mode, in short, which blisters relieve is this: they hold the diseased action in check while their own irritation lasts; and this gives time to the part affected to recover a healthy tone: but how hard is it for some minds to embrace a favourite theory without carrying its principles too far! It is a favorite practice in France to blister and caustic the opposite leg to that which is diseased; and, in doing this, they talk a great deal about sympathy as

well as counter-irritation. The greatest instance of extravagance we have ever witnessed in a disciple of this doctrine was at Bourdeaux:—A Surgeon was called to an English merchant, Mr. Westwood, residing at Mrs. Harrison's boarding-house. The patient complained of great pain in the head and eyes, with considerable fever: he was a man of very full habit of body. The surgeon sent to the apothecary's for a dozen leeches, and applied them to—what part? To the *nates*—the very centre; directly over the glutei muscles! This was the *opposite* treatment to what Mr. Westwood expected, and not finding himself any better next day, sent for an English surgeon, who very soon relieved him.

—

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Application of a hot smoothing-iron to the back for Lumbago or Rheumatism in the back.

This is a clumsy remedy, but is frequently of use. It is applied by rubbing it over a doubled piece of flannel on the whole course of the back, as hot as the iron can be borne. The benefit is produced by its heat and friction.

Fasting Spittle rubbed to Swellings in the Neck.

This is only useful by the *rubbing* of the finger to the swelled gland. Friction is an admitted remedy by the faculty for dispersing swellings in glands. As to the adjunct, it is nothing: the dry finger would be better.

Poultice of half boiled burgoo, stir-about, or oatmeal porridge.

A poultice of this sort is used by the peasantry both of Scotland and Ireland in those cases where the English use bread-and-milk or water poultice. It is, we think, preferable to the latter, on account of its retaining its moisture longer.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Recipe for an excellent purging pill.

Take
Of extract of colocynth (compound) three scruples
Of gum gambouge, two scruples
Of scammony, one scruple
Add ten drops of the oil of cloves, or mint, and make them into twenty-four pills.—One will move; two or three are a strong dose.

This is a good form of pill for families.

—

An excellent Antibilious pill.

Take
Of compound extract of colocynth, two scruples
Of extract of jalap, one scruple
Of calomel, one scruple
Of extract of scammony, one scruple,
add ten drops of the oil of cloves, and make them into twenty pills.-- One, or two, a dose.

—

Recipe for Female pills.

Take
Of aloes one drachm
Of calomel one scruple; make them into twenty pills.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

—

We thank L. S. and are glad to find so good an effect of our remarks on the Females' Tread-mill. We hope the magistrates will not again recur to the practice of cutting off women's hair.

"*A sufferer from Quackery's*" communication is received. The anecdote is good, and will appear in our next.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and – WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

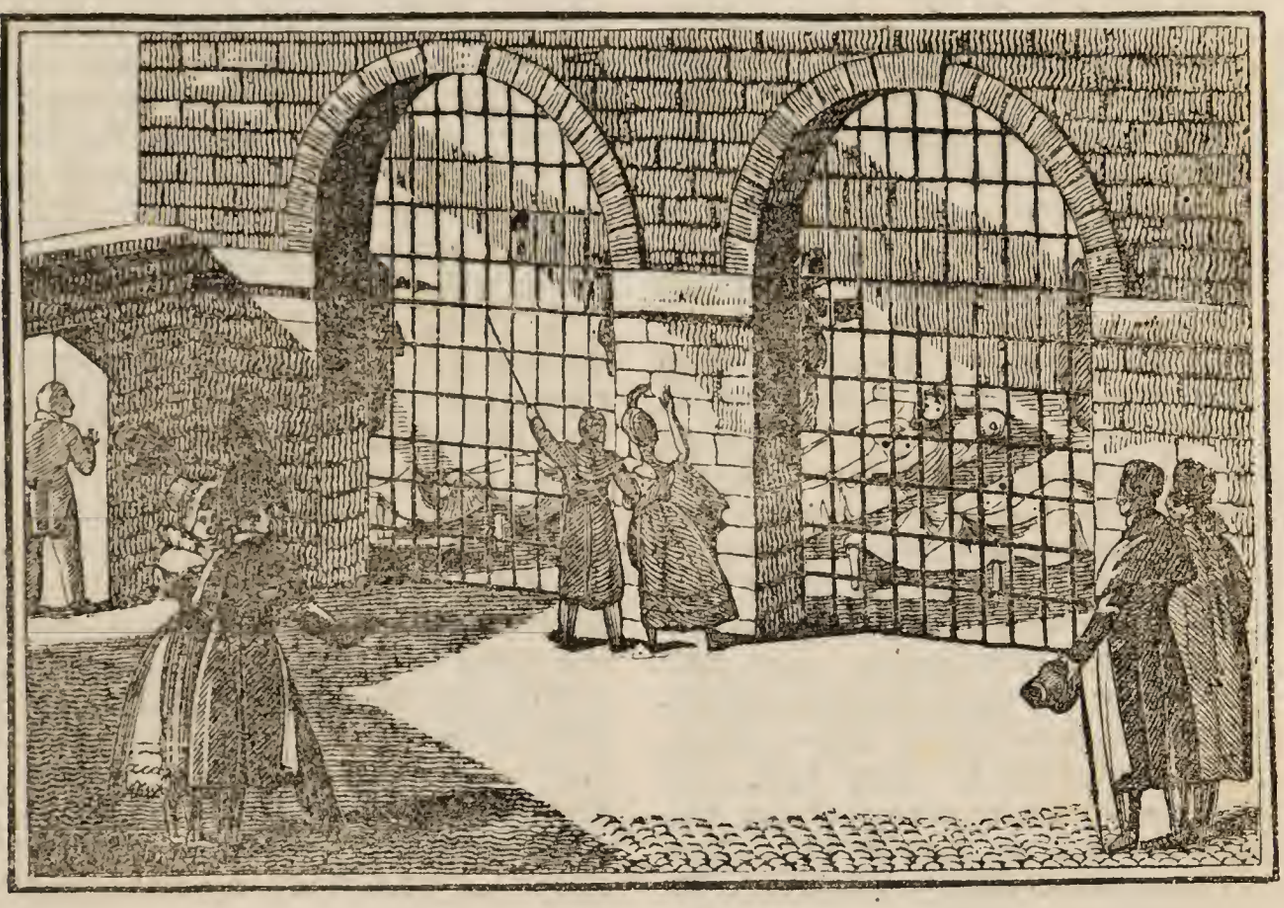
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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LA MORGUE, AT PARIS.

A Place for the Exhibition of unknown Dead Bodies.

THIS receptacle for the unknown dead found in Paris and the faubourgs of the city, contributes not a little to the forwarding of the medical sciences, by the vast number of bodies it furnishes, which on the average amount to about two hundred annually! The process of decomposition in the human body may be seen at La Morgue, throughout every stage to solution, by those whose taste or pursuit of science leads them frequently to that melancholy exhibition. We ourselves have regularly visited the place nearly every day for two years; not out of curiosity, but for the purpose of medical observation; for wounds, fractures, and injuries of every description, occasionally present themselves as the effect of accident or murder—more frequently the latter. Scarcely a day passes without a new arrival of two or three dead, chiefly found in the Seine, and most likely murdered, by being flung either out of the windows which overhang the river, or off the bridges, or out of the wine and wood barges, by which the men who sell the cargoes generally return, with money in their pockets, and it is well known

many suffer in this way, whose home being a distance from Paris, their bodies when found are not seen by their friends, and therefore fall into the dissecting room. In London, when a death happens by accident or by murder, an inquest is convened, and the proceedings published in all the newspapers; in Paris, the bodies of such dead as are found, are merely placed in La Morgue, stripped and laid out upon planks, with their clothes hung up over them, and the gates thrown open to the public. Here they remain three days, when, if not owned, they are removed; a report of those deaths is made to the Bureau de Police, and so ends the matter. From this it appears that so few murders happen in France compared with England: yet there are twenty to one more in France than in this country: but they do not publish their deaths, and they have no inquests. We seldom see an account of murder in the French papers unless under legal investigation; they take no notice of those unhappy individuals daily found in the Seine; while, if a dead body be found here, it is known from one corner of the empire to the other, through the medium of our press. The exhibition at La Morgue is so common, that few but foreigners and country people visit it. It is worthy of remark too that this place, as well as the executions by the guillotine, is attended by females, (females!) Our executions at the Old Bailey and our disgusting prize fights are visited by some English women, but the French far out-number them in this sort of curiosity. Such an institution as La Morgue would not be amiss in London, for the particular purpose of exhibiting suicide—we think it would act as a preventive to the crime.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

CONVULSIONS.

In speaking of the effects of opium upon infants, we stated as our opinion, that one-third that die under the care of nurses, die from convulsions, *brought on* by the use of opium. This species of convulsion they term "inward fits,"—nay, even some of our learned authors adopt the appellation; and in that disease, as described by Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Thomas, is precisely the symptoms detailed by us, (page 9), when speaking of opium as given to infants. Now, those symptoms which we have set forth, are not written from mere theory, nor yet from observation of the disease *unconnected with proof of its causes*. The following case will speak for this point, and we recommend all medical men to draw their attention to that convulsion called "*inward fits*," with our case in in view—they will soon find that in most of them *opium* has been administered, either directly, or disguised in quack medicines.

A young practitioner, with whom we have been medically educated, became so attached to the use of opium, from having succeeded in the cure of several species of disorder by that medicine, that he would apply it in almost every case that came before him—a fault very generally attached to favourite theories in medicine. He was called to a friend's child, of three months old, labouring under derangement of the bowels, with great irritability:— having first administered a corrective to the bowels, he commenced with his favourite remedy about four o'clock in the afternoon. About eight o'clock the same day he called and found that the infant started frequently in its sleep: this he set down to *nervous irritation*, and immediately administered a sedative, or, as the nurses call it, a soothing draught, to be repeated in four hours, containing about one quarter of a grain of opium. The child started very often during the night, but slept soundly in the intervals. Next day it continued, and the young enthusiast of opium conceived that the infant had inward fits, and determined to administer a strong dose of his favourite medicine, on the principle that small doses only irritate, while large ones are completely sedative, forgetting that this doctrine does not apply to infants. He gave the medicine, and on calling in the evening found that all the symptoms, we described in page 9, were present; but as he believed that opium was the only specific for nervous irritation, he did not desist from its use. The child was frequently put into a

warm-bath, and our friend staid up all night with his patient, but the climax arrived with next morning, and the child died.

This was a case of "*inward fits*," the nurse said: and so it was—but brought on by opium. Our friend did every thing for the best; but he was very young in the practice of medicine, and under that prejudice, which is but too often the fault of older practitioners — too great a love for some favourite treatment, medicine, or theory. He is, however, now completely cured of his error, and a sound and able practitioner. We think for the cure of "inward fits," there is nothing to be done, but administer rhubarb and magnesia, or castor oil, so as to keep the bowels free, and use a warm-bath three or four times a day, wrapping up the infant warmly after each bathing: it may also be rubbed upon the breast and belly, with the dry hand, before the fire and the following mixture given :—

Ten drops of oil of anniseed, rubbed in a mortar, with a little moist sugar: to this add a wine-glass full of water—give a tea-spoon full occasionally—perhaps four times a day.

This is a class of convulsions that may be treated by any one who will observe the above remedies. Convulsions from other causes shall be considered fully in our next.

—

FEMALE BEAUTY PHYSICALLY CONSIDERED.

It is not unusual to consider the body as being divided into the head, the trunk, and the extremities; but in consequence of the hitherto universal neglect of the *natural* arrangement of the organs and functions into MECHANICAL, VITAL, and INTELLECTUAL, the beauty and interest which may be attached to this division, has equally escaped the notice of anatomists. It is a curious fact, and strongly confirmative of the preceding arrangements that one of these parts—the *extremities*—consists almost entirely of mechanical organs, namely, bones, ligaments, and muscles; and that another part—the trunk—consists of all the greater vital organs, namely, absorbents, blood-vessels, and glands; and that the third part—the head—contains all the intellectual organs, namely, the organs of sense, cerebrum and cerebellum.

It is a curious fact, that of these parts, those which consist chiefly of mechanical organs—organs which in the sense already explained, are common to us with the *lowest* class of beings, namely, minerals * are placed in the *lowest* situation, namely, the extremities; that which consists chiefly of vital organs—organs common to us with a higher class of beings, namely, vegetables, † is placed in a *higher* situation, namely, the trunk; and that which consists chiefly of intellectual organs—organs peculiar to the highest class of beings, namely, animals, ‡ is placed in the *highest* situation, namely, the head. It is moreover worthy of remark, and still illustrative of the preceding arrangements that, in each of these three situations, the bones differ both in position and in form. In the extremities they are situate internally to the soft parts, and are generally of a cylindrical form; in the trunk they begin to assume a more external situation, and a flatter form; because they protect vital and more important parts, which they do not, however, altogether cover; and in the head they obtain the most external situation and the flattest form, especially in its highest part, because they protect intellectual and most important organs, which in some parts they completely invest. The loss of such general views is the consequence of arbitrary methods.

The importance of the above observations will be obvious when compared with the analytical sketches of the three species of beauty described in this essay.

It is evidently the MECHANICAL SYSTEM which is highly developed in the beauty whose neck is tapering; whose shoulders, without being angular, are sufficiently broad and definite; whose waist, remarkable for fine proportion, is almost an inverted cone; whose hips are moderately expanded;

* The bones resemble these in containing the greatest quantity of mineral matter.

† It is the possession of vessels which constitute the vitality of vegetables.

‡ In animals alone is nervous matter discoverable.

whose limbs are proportional; whose arms as well as legs are tapering, and whose hands and feet are small: in fine, whose whole figure is precise, striking and brilliant, for all these parts belong to the mechanical system.

It is evidently the VITAL SYSTEM which is highly developed in the beauty who boasts a luxuriant profusion of flaxen or auburn hair; whose eyes are the softest blue; whose complexion has the fair and the red so exquisitely blended, that you are surprised it should defy the usual operation of the elements; whose shoulders are softly rounded, and owe any breadth they possess rather to the expanded chest * than to the size of the shoulders themselves; whose bosom in its luxuriance seems laterally to protrude upon the space occupied by the arms; whose waist, though sufficiently marked, is, as it were, encroached on by the *en bon point* of all the contagious parts; whose hips are greatly expanded: whose limbs and arms although proportionally large above, taper downward, and terminate in feet and hands peculiarly small compared with the body: in fine, whose figure is soft and voluptuous in the extreme; for all these parts belong to the vital system.

It is not less evidently the INTELLECTUAL SYSTEM which is highly developed in the beauty, whose high and pale forehead announces the intellectuality of her character, whose intensely expressive eye is full of sensibility, speaking her thoughts; over whose lower features, in which modesty and dignity are often united, a soft and pale light seems sometimes to be shed, darkening her hair still more by a happy contrast—who has neither the expanded bosom, nor the general *en bon point* of the second species, and who boasts easy and elegant motion rather than the fine proportion of the first; in fine, whose whole figure is characterized by intellectuality and grace; for all these belong to the intellectual system.

Thus can anatomical principles alone illustrate and establish the accuracy of the three species of beauty which are here analytically described; and with such principles it becomes simple, to detect and appreciate all the combinations and modifications of these species. Thus, too, knowing what beauty really is, it can be described differently from the vague language of vulgar observers.

Now it always happens that some one of these species of beauty characterizes the same individual during every stage of life; and to the experienced observer, it never is difficult to say which of them predominates. It often however occurs that two of these species are blended in considerable perfection. A union of all the three is to be found, only in those immortal images of ideal beauty which were created by the genius and the chisel of the Greeks.

But though one species of beauty always characterizes the same individual during every stage of life, yet it is a fact, eminently remarkable, that the young woman (whatever species of beauty predominates) has always a tendency to beauty of the mechanical system; that the middle-aged woman has always a tendency to the beauty of the vital system; and that the woman of more advanced age has always a tendency to the beauty of the intellectual system.

In a truly beautiful woman, none of these systems can exist in a great degree of degradation; but of the three, the vital system is to women most essential; and from thirty to forty is generally the age of its highest perfection.

In the mechanical system of woman, the *upper part* of the body is *less*, and the *lower part more* prominent than in man. The magnitude of the pelvis, or lower part of the trunk, has great influence upon the apparent proportion of parts on the general figure. From that cause, in a great measure, *the shoulders* are more proportionally narrower, and more sloping in the female. From the same cause *the back* is more hollow, and the hips are proportionally wider. On account of the breadth of the hips, the limbs, to the knee, which are more curved before, are also proportionally larger, and the

* That is, to the vital organs it contains.

act of walking is rendered more difficult and vacillating. The arms being less dependent on the structure of the vital system and the trunk, are shorter. The hands and the feet, being also remote from that part, are less; and the fingers are more delicate and flexible than in the male. If, however, the osseous system be much smaller, the *muscular system* is in some parts more developed than in man. Hence results the delicacy of the female form, and the ease and suppleness of its movements. The muscular fibre, however, is more soft, yielding, and weak than in man, because it is necessary that it should easily adapt itself to great and remarkable changes. Such are the true characteristics of the mechanical system in woman; and whenever there is a deviation from these, there is in that system a proportional absence of female beauty.

With the VITAL SYSTEM of woman, the capacity of *the pelvis* (if not the consequent breadth of the hips) is still more connected than with the mechanical system; for with this circumstance all those functions which are most essentially feminine, are intimately connected. Professor Camper has shewn, that in tracing the figures of the body of the male and female, in imaginary ellipsis of equal dimensions, a portion of the hips of the latter would be out of the ellipsis, and the shoulders within it; while in the former, the shoulders would project beyond the limits of the figure, and the hips would be entirely enclosed within it. The predominance of the cellular tissue, and the soft and moderate *en bon point* which is connected with it, is the next remarkable characteristic of the vital system in woman. It is this which facilitates the adaptation of the mechanical system to the changes we have alluded to, at the same time that it obliterates the projections of muscles, and invests all the limbs with those rounded and graceful forms, of which the Venus de Medici is an inimitable model. The greater firmness, delicacy and transparency of *the skin*, the purer lily and more vivid rose of *the complexion*, and the fineness of *the hair*, are equally connected with this system, and peculiar to woman. Such are the more striking, though merely external, characteristics of this important system in woman: and whenever there is a deviation from these, there is, in that system, a proportional absence of female beauty.

In the INTELLECTUAL SYSTEM woman has *the organs of sense* proportionally larger, and more delicately outlined, and *the whole nervous matter* participates in the softness and mobility of the other parts. Hence the sensibility of woman is greater. Her impressions succeed with rapidity. She has therefore more finesse and penetration, than depth or force of thought. This is well adapted to her perpetual interest, to observe men and her rivals; and that practice again gives to this species of instinct a quickness and a certainty which the reasoning of the profoundest philosopher could never attain. Her eye, if we may so express ourselves, hears every word; her ear sees every motion; and with the very consummation of art she always knows how to hide this continual observation under the appearance of timid embarassment, or even of stupidity. She even feels her weakness in this respect: hence her little contrivances—her dissimulations — her manners — her graces—in one word, her coquetry, which is the necessary union of several of her qualities. Such then are the characteristics of the intellectual system in woman: and, (as in the other systems) wherever there is a deviation from these, there is, in that system, a proportional absence of female beauty.

*** The defects of female beauty shall be given in a future number.

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DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING MEDICINE.

As a general guide to the administration of medicines, we present our readers with the following table and

remarks. The table was originally drawn up by Gaubius.

Ages.	Proportionate quantities.	Doses.
For an Adult suppose the dose to be.....	ONE	or 1 drachm
Under 1 year Will require only.....	1/12	5 grains
1 — 2 years	1/8	8 grains
2 — 3 —	1/6	10 grains
3 — 4 —	1/5	15 grains
4 — 7 —	1/4	1 scruple
7 — 14 —	1/3	½ a drachm
14 — 20 —	1/2	2 scruples
Above 21 — 63 —	The full dose.....	1 drachm
The inverse gradation of the above		

Although some women possess as much bodily strength and vigour of constitution as the majority of men, yet the general greater delicacy and sensibility of the female frame at every period of life, require not only caution in apportioning the doses of active medicines, which should be less than those ordered for men of the same age, but the medicines, themselves, should be such as are likely to fulfil the indications required, without much violence. The state of the uterine system, likewise, must not be overlooked in prescriptions being given to females. Thus the employment of aloetic and drastic purgatives, such as jalap, scammony, calomel, &c.: and bark, sulphuric acid, and astringents, should be suspended during the period of natural illness in females.

It is undoubtedly true, that persons of different temperaments, or original conformations of body, are differently affected by the operation of medicines. Stimulants more readily affect those of a sanguine, than those of a phlegmatic temperament; and, therefore, smaller doses are required. In the phlegmatic, also, the bowels are generally torpid, and require both a description of purgatives, and such doses of them to excite the proper peristaltic motion as would induce either inflammation of the bowels, or be followed by an alarming state of debility, were they administered to those of a sanguine temperament: hence the necessity of attending to this circumstance in the administering of medicines. Habits have a considerable influence in modifying their operation. Persons addicted to the use of spirits, narcotics, and other stimulants, are less easily excited, both by medicinal stimulants and narcotics; and the knowledge of the habits of the patient, as far as the exhibition of purgatives is concerned, is absolutely necessary to be observed; many people being in the almost daily habit of taking this class of remedies without any such consideration. In the first of these cases, larger doses of stimulants and narcotics are required, to produce the ordinary effects of these remedies; but in the second a change of the purgative usually taken will generally be sufficient. In the employment of medicines, also, which require to be long continued, the beneficial effect is soon lost, if the doses be not increased.

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COWHAGE.

AS A CURE FOR WORMS.

Cowhage, or *Dolichos pruriens*, is a perennial plant, somewhat like our scarlet-beans, and a native of America and the East and West Indies. Upon the outside of the pods there is a number of spiculæ, which, when scraped off, form the medicine we are about to recommend.—Mr. Chamberlaine has written a practical treatise upon the beneficial effects of this remedy; and we, ourselves, have tried it with success, at Bourdeaux, a town which produces more worm-cases than the whole north of France, from the peculiarly unhealthy mode of living observed by its inhabitants. Cowhage acts mechanically upon the worms—that is, by wounding them with the prickly points of the medicine, but is

quite harmless as regards the mouth, throat, and intestines of the patient. The manner of making up the medicine is this:—add as much of the cowhage to molasses, or syrup, as will make the mass of the thickness of honey. The dose is, for a child under seven years, a tea-spoon full every morning, for three days; after which (on the third day) give one of the *purging pills*, to be found in page 32. For an older child—such as ten or twelve years of age—two spoons full, and two pills; and for an adult three spoons full, and three of the pills. If these pills cannot be taken, salts and senna may be substituted; but the latter medicine is not so good as the other.

This vermifuge is a good one, and will succeed when most others have failed.

*** We will give a paper on the disease of worms in a future number.

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An Experiment concerning the Proportion of the Weight of Air to the Weight of an equal bulk of Water, without knowing the Quantity of either.

A BOTTLE which contained about three gallons was procured, and of a form somewhat oval, which figure was made choice of for the advantage of its more easy libration in water. Into this bottle was put as much lead as would serve to sink it below the surface of the water, and the reason why it was chosen rather to have the weight of lead inclosed within the bottle than fixed any where on the outside, was to prevent the inconveniences which in the latter case must needs have arisen from bubbles of air; for these bubbles would have inevitably adhered to, and lurked in great plenty about the body of the weight, had it been placed on the outside, which must have caused some error in the computation of an experiment that required so much exactness and nicety. These things thus provided, the bottle containing common air so closed up, was by a wire suspended in the water at one end of a very good balance, and was counterpoised in the water by a weight of 358 grains and a half in the opposite scale. Then, being taken out of the water, and screwed to the air pump, in five minutes time it was pretty well exhausted, the mercury in the gauge standing at twenty-nine inches and a half. After which having turned a cock that screwed both to the bottle and to the pump, and so prevented the return of the air into it again, it was taken off from the pump and suspended as before, at one end of the balance in the water: and now the weight of it was but 175 grains and a half, which therefore subtracted from 358 grains and a half (the weight of the bottle with the enclosed air before it had been applied to the air-pump,) gave for the difference 183 grains: which difference must consequently be the weight of the quantity of air drawn from the bottle by the pump. Having thus determined the weight of the exhausted air, a cork was opened under water, upon which the water was at first impelled with considerable violence into the bottle (though the force abated gradually afterwards,) and continued to rush in till such a quantity had entered as was equal to the bulk of the air withdrawn; and then the bottle being examined by the balance, again was found to weigh 162,132 grains, from which subtracting 175 grains and a half, (the weight of the bottle with the small remainder of included air, after it was taken from the air pump) there remains 161,956 grains and a half: for the weight of the mass of water equal in bulk to the quantity of air exhausted. So that the proportion of the weights of two equal bulks of air and water is as 183 to 161,956 and a half: which is as 1 to $885\frac{1}{122}$; or in round numbers as 1 to 885.

There are two things particularly observable in this experiment. First, that in making it after this manner one need not be very solicitous about a nice and accurate exhaustion of the receiver. The success of this experiment does not at all depend upon it; for to what degree soever exhaustion be made it must still answer in proportion to the quantity taken out: neither can any more water possibly enter into the receiver than what will just supply the place, and fill up the room deserted by the exhausted air. But secondly, the season of the year

is to be considered in making this experiment. It was made in the warm month of May; the mercury in the barometer standing at the same time at 29 inches From whence it is reasonable to conclude that a sensible difference would arise were it to be tried in the months of December and January, when the state and constitution of the air usually differs from that of the fore-mentioned month.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.
(CONTINUED.)

—

EADY the wall-chalker—late dealer in tapes, threads, cotton-balls, bodkins, needles, pins and thimbles!

WOULD that he had still remained in honest obscurity, and not to have sought a nefarious notoriety at the expense of both the lives and the health of so many unhappy people! Would that he had continued to dispense unambitiously his humble admeasurements of haberdashery, and to have left all dangerous drugs to those who knew the use of them! Would that he had never handled a piece of chalk wherewith to learn to write his own name, but to have been contented with permitting the village painter to renew it annually, where it was first so appropriately placed! Then would it have been honestly handed down in the memory of his customers associated with "*dealer in thread and thimbles,*" and never have been insulted with the ironical adjunct of "*Doctor.*" Heartily will many join their wishes with us upon this point: deranged stomachs, diseased livers, mercurialized disorders of all sorts, and broken constitutions, afford but too many reasons for it

Of all the impudent, audacious, and ignorant fellows that ever disgraced English credulity, this quack takes the lead. He first was an errand boy, then was taken behind the counter of a haberdasher, and afterwards commenced business for himself in that line; but finding trade bad, and seeing the numerous advertisements which appear daily from humbuggers in the healing art, he turned his thoughts to that branch of business. From Buchan he learned that mercury cured certain diseases—that calomel was a purgative, that ipecacuanha produced vomiting, that arsenic was used in curing ague, and that opium put people asleep. Upon these foundation stones he was determined to build an edifice. even though he slaughtered, like Buonaparte, millions in its accomplishment. Up to London—sweet believing London—he came, and as he could not at first afford to pay for advertising his name in the papers, he hit upon the chalking scheme—*necessitas durum telum est*—it cuts even a stone wall. So Mr. Eady commenced his course of studies by night, and took his degree at every corner of London and the outlets. Regularly at nightfall would this industrious student start from his lodgings and continue his walk, chalking with his own hands every public wall he came to, until about one or two o'clock in the morning. In one of those *courses of lectures*, he unluckily met with a most irritating and humiliating accident: a house belonging to an oil and resin dealer at Hammersmith, was broken open by thieves, who were however discovered in the act of plundering, by the watchman. On the alarm being given, the thieves fled, escaping at the back part of the house, pursued hy the proprietor and the watchman. "Doctor" Eady was at this moment completing a large capital D, upon the side wall of the house, when hearing the noise and cry of thieves he took to his heels, but had not run ten yards, when the watchman and the man of the house seized him. In vain he protested his innocence; both his captors were furiously inexorable, and dragged the poor doctor to the lock-up-house. Here his person was searched, and a huge lump of chalk being found in his great-coat pocket, the evidence was conclusive; for the man whose house was attacked declared it to be his property! Into the black hole hand-cuffed he was bundled,—not suffered even to make a reply. Next morning he was brought before the magistrate on a charge of house-breaking, when he stepped

significantly up to his worship and said he hoped he would be granted a private hearing. He was answered upon what grounds; and he replied that he wished to preserve his character The worthy magistrate not seeing the matter in the same light as the "doctor," refused his request: nothing now remained but a clear explanation; so after many excusatory glances, he unfolded his tale to the surprise of his hearers. However he was not believed until the magistrate dispatched an officer to see the wall, and to compare the chalk found with that in the shop broken into. Luckily the **D** was there, and the chalks did not correspond, otherwise we should have had the *learned* gentleman tried at the Old Bailey. As it was, he was dismissed with an admonition from the magistrate to be more cautious in future how he chalked people's walls.* This adventure had little effect upon him, for he continued his nightly excursions until he began to feel the benefit of them, and was able thereby to employ others for that purpose. He has ever since gone on gulling every one he can, through thick and thin:—mercury and arsenic;—his plan is to stick at nothing—not even a sixpenny fee. If a patient apply for assistance, he states he will cure him "*in the twinkling of a bedpost,*" as he elegantly and emphatically expresses himself, and then asks him how much he can afford to pay—"Twenty shillings?" "No"—"Eighteen?" "No"—"Fifteen?" "No"—"Ten?" "No"—"Well then how much will you give—I'll do the job if I can?"—"I have only half-a crown." "Pooh! well give it here mun."

It is certain that this fellow has succeeded so far, in spite of his gross ignorance of even his own language—for he can scarcely read—as to gain upon the credulity of many who are more respectable in ways of life than in their understandings. The mode by which he has accomplished this, is by attending a methodist chapel and talking with as much freedom of divinity as he does of physic. Eady is doubtless a clever fellow in one point, and that is at humbugging,—an art which he requires more than people think; at this he is *au fait*, and it therefore behoves the public to be still more on their guard against him. Let those who may be inclined to consult such sources as London quackery for relief in disease, remember this;—that medicine in the hands of an ignorant person, is like the trigger of a loaded musket in the fingers of an idiot; it may, or it may not go off; it may do no injury, or it may kill; but it can do no good.

We subjoin a letter which speaks, in our opinion, enough to prevent those invalids who read it, from calling at Dean Street, Soho; unless their understandings are as diseased as their constitutions.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

Seeing by the second number of your interesting work, that you intended to speak of Eady the quack in your third, I enclose you my case, in order that you may see to what lengths I have been imposed upon by believing in his nonsense. I was a clerk in a solicitor's office of respectability, when I had the misfortune to be attacked with a certain malady; and knowing no surgeon, I was so far prevailed upon by Eady's advertisements, to put myself under his care. He at first told me that I should be cured in ten days, and charged me two or three shillings for medicine every time I called. Suffice it to say that after three months I found myself debilitated to a degree, and out of pocket eleven pounds. He now told me I was cured. I continued to go to my office although extremely weak, nor did I get stronger, although living as well as need be. At the end of thirteen weeks, I was seized with a sore throat and eruptions on my skin, and sent for Eady again; who said it was cold, and gave me a mixture which I believe to

* Our correspondent who has supplied this anecdote we thank, and assure him that the caution of not using his name was unnecessary. He will perceive that we have not made use of the other information contained in his letter, as we think it too severe. Our object is to attack Eady's injurious pretensions to medical knowledge, and not his morals.

have been corrosive sublimate. I was now confined to my bed, where I lay for four months with little alteration in my disease. At the end of this time my shins began to swell, and the pains I endured both in my arms and legs were not to be borne. I was as thin as a rake. My money was now all gone, and Eady began to see it:—had this been the case before, I should not have so much cause to complain of. He left me to my disease and my poverty. I wrote to my employer and stated fully my situation, and he humanely had me conveyed to the Lock Hospital, but before I was taken there, I lost the use of my right hand, and the bones of my nose were attacked with disease. By proper treatment under Dr. Pearson, I recovered considerably: but my constitution is so broken that I scarcely can move from my room. This is a candid statement, and I hope it may serve, through the medium of your publication, to caution people from the ruin which attends such ignorant pretenders.

I am Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
Peckham. J. L. SMITH.

—

Now let us read the advertisement which this quack has got up, and even prevailed upon some journals to insert as a paragraph.

"Such is the effect of perseverance "and industry in the science of me- "dicine" (*science of medicine—perseverance and industry!*—perhaps he means chalking) "that great "numbers, many of whom had lin- "gered under the most painful and "obstinate disorders, who are pro- "nounced incurable by respectable "practitioners, and several discharged "from hospitals have been restored "to perfect health, by the celebrated "Dr. Eady (*celebrated*) who after a "long and laborious practice," (*chalk- "ing, &c.*)—Then he goes on with— "Eruptions, nodes on the shin-bones, "sore throat, &c. &c. and concludes "by directing that patients in the "country should address post paid, "and *enclose a fee!*"

It is a pity that there exists no law to put down such dreadful evils: Swindlers of every class, except this, are amenable to the laws. The public ought to be protected against such imposture; and we hope the legislature will take it up ere long.

Let a patient that is poor, go either to one of the public institutions for advice, or to a respectable practitioner, stating to him his inability to pay largely, and we are sure he will be conscientiously treated: but let none be so fool-hardy as to entrust so valuable a blessing as their health, to a marauding and unprincipled quack.

—

*** "Dr." Cameron, the *water*-taster, in our next.

—

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

"*A crust of bread eaten in the morning.*"

This has been an old woman's remedy time out of mind, but of late years has had the honour of being incorporated with the libraries of medical science, by having an ingenious treatise written upon its potent properties.

Although we cannot go the lengths which that author does in the praise of its powers, yet we think it highly useful in absorbing the super-abundant juices of the stomach, collected during the night, and promoting a better secretion of the saline. A few water cresses combined with it, we think, would improve its effects. The mouth should be well washed with cold water previously, and the teeth and gums brushed.

—

"*A roasted turnip applied to the ear in tooth-ache.*"

We have known this rustic remedy to succeed often, and particularly where the pain extended over the jaw and side of the head. It cures by heat alone, acting on the principle of counter-irritation. In fact, it is a good poultice, and retains its heat long; and together with the kerchief or bandage necessary to keep it on, and night-cap, produces a perspiration upon that side of the head, which (if the disease is rheumatic) relieves

almost to a certainty. When roasted thoroughly, it should be gently bruised and placed between two flannels, and then applied to the ear at bed-time. It should remain all night.

—

"*A roasted fig applied to the tooth.*" THIS acts upon the principle of the above remedy, but is seldom of use, for it cannot be retained a sufficient time; and when it is taken away from the tooth, leaves the nerve exposed to worse cold than before. It is a bad application.

—

"*Opium applied to the tooth.*" THIS remedy belongs to the old women of the faculty. It is seriously recommended by grave authors, and used by many practitioners of the present day. We would ask then in the name of Galen—why? Whenever it appears to have succeeded, it is from the opium dissolving, and so going into the stomach. If practitioners, instead of putting a grain of opium, or what is still more absurd, a bit of lint dipped in laudanum, into the tooth, would put two grains into the stomach, they would succeed. Our plan is: let the patient cover his ears and head warmly at bed-time, fill the hollow tooth with chewed cloves, and swallow two grains of opium, or forty drops of laudanum. Keep the head warm for a few days after. If this do not remove the pain let the tooth be drawn. We are aware that the faculty will not yield easily to their established rule of applying opium *to the tooth:* but we challenge the whole to produce a single instance of relief, unless the opium is swallowed. They cannot do it. We have given it many years' trial, from its being an approved practice, although we always doubted its efficacy on principle.

—

"*Parts burned or scalded to be held to the fire.*" ALTHOUGH generally believed that heat applied as above mentioned cures burns or scalds, nothing can be more erroneous. It is any thing but a "remedy." It is only giving the sufferer a greater degree of pain, in order that he may think less of that from the burn by comparison. Cold water is the best application, which should be changed whenever it becomes so warm as to allow the return of the pain: and this should be persisted in until the violence entirely abates. Vinegar may be added to the water in the latter changes, or goulard water, or a little sugar of lead dissolved in it. If blisters arise, they should be cut and dressed with cooling white ointment spread thinly: but we shall speak more at length on this subject under its proper head.

—

"*Fasting spittle rubbed to a Wen.*" THIS is nothing. Like prince Hohenlohe's miracles—it only effects (if at all) through the imagination.

—

SHORT MAXIMS FOR HEALTH.

KEEP the feet from wet.

Drink not milk after fish, particularly salmon.

Salmon out of season is unwholesome: it produces bowel complaints.

Endeavour always to rise about the same hour every day, and if possible to go to bed at similar hours.

Less than five hours sleep, or more than eight in the twenty-four, is pernicious.

Eat not too much at a meal: little and often is an old rule.

If an excessive heat from exertion, get gradually cool, and drink no cold fluid; but when the heat is a little diminished, take a little spirits and water.

Keep the bowels always regular—neither too much one way nor the other: if too relaxed take twenty grains of rhubarb, for a grown person; ten for a younger person. If the bowels be inclined to constipation, take occasionally one or two of the family pills, see p. 32. No. II.

Eat as few raw onions as you can.

Drink no ale if it makes you costive.

We will go on with maxims in future numbers as they occur to us.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

To stop vomiting arising from debility of the stomach, particularly in that brought on by hard-drinking.

Boil half an ounce of cloves in a pint of water.

To this add two drachms of aromatic tincture.

Let this be drank in the dose of half a cup full every hour.

—

TONIC INFUSION.

Put a few bits of gentian root into a quart of boiling water, and let it stand two days: pour it off, and add to it as many drops of *diluted sulphuric acid* as will make it a pleasant slightly acidulated taste.

A wine-glass full is the dose, and may be taken in all cases of weakness, once or twice a day, with great benefit. The root will give a good bitter to a second quart of boiling water.

—

ARTIFICIAL ASSES' MILK.

As it is difficult, sometimes, to procure asses' milk, it will be useful to our readers to know that it can be substituted in the following manner:—

Pour half a pint of soda water over a wine-glass full of boiling milk. It should be drank immediately.

—

FROST-BITTEN.

When the hands, feet, or face have been exposed to severe cold, and then brought suddenly before a fire, a violent inflammation, and often gangrene will take place. If this take place, poultices and fomentations must be applied;—for inflammation, the poultice above recommended will do; or the bread and milk poultice; but in mortification, a fermenting poultice must be used, to make which see page 44. But when the disease runs so far as this, a medical practitioner should be consulted. When the inflammation goes away, and leaves ulcers, they must be treated as chilblains.

When any part of the body becomes frost-bitten, let it be put into water very little warmer than the atmosphere which occasioned the disease, or let it be rubbed with snow until the morbid appearances are removed.

—

FERMENTING POULTICE TO CHECK MORTIFICATION.

Flour, one pound,

Yeast of beer, half a pint.

Mix and set it before a fire, until it begins to swell and bubble.

In this state it must be applied.

—

CAUTIONS FOR EVIDENCE IN CHILD-MURDER.

So various are the causes producing death in a new-born infant—so many the reasons which exist in females for concealing the births of illegitimate children, and so awful the fate of her pronounced guilty of infanticide, that the greatest caution should be observed in the investigation of all the circumstances attending the alleged crime. It is with the medical opinion given at the inquest, that the fate of the unhappy mother chiefly rests, and, therefore, the following caution ought to be observed by all those examined in that capacity. We are sorry to state that some of the faculty have believed, that if the lungs float in water, the child, of course, has lived and breathed; but it is not always the case, for *whatever part of the lungs putrefaction has commenced in will float in water; and putrefaction frequently takes place before delivery, from the accidental death of the fœtus.*

Much discrimination is requisite to distinguish between a child that has lived but a short time after birth, and one still-born; and still greater to determine whether an infant has been murdered, or met with accidental death. The accidents attending delivery, even with the best medical attendants, and the most prudent caution, are numerous; but tenfold are they in cases where the mother's object is concealment. In most of such they are inexperienced girls; and even if they had the will and the knowledge necessary to protect their infant, they sometimes are so weak, both from mental, as well as physical causes, that the assistance necessary to preserve the child's life cannot be afforded. In all these cases the umbilical cord is divided: this the mother does herself, from obvious causes: a flow of blood from the child is the consequence, which she knows not how to stop, and perhaps terrified at its appearance, abandons herself to despair, and becomes unable to move—she will not

call for assistance, and the infant dies. In other cases the child will often breathe one or two respirations, and then be suffocated—from many causes; the cord itself twisting round its neck—from the liquor amnii—its situation in the bed; or a fall may deprive it of life; or it may die a moment or two before its birth by pressure upon the umbilical cord: but, independent of accidents, how frequently does it happen that infants die immediately from no accident whatever, when it will often require surgical operation to retain life? All these things should be carefully attended to—they clearly show the injustice of relying wholly upon the lungs floating in water. Justice demands a fair enquiry; but where a doubt at all exists, medical men should not decide against; better that many guilty escape, than one innocent suffer. We, ourselves, declare, that were we called to attend such an inquest, we should require at least four more of the profession; and we, moreover, think that the medical opinion upon all cases of child-murder should be by a majority of at least five; particularly at places remote from cities, where the village medical man may, by chance, be not sufficiently enlightened upon this point—and, by the bye, notwithstanding the powerful and extensive knowledge which our profession now justly possesses, yet there are many men, of very narrow acquirements, who enjoy reputation for what they deserve not; therefore one opinion—even *two* opinions—ought not to be always taken in evidence of infanticide.

It often happens that to conceal all traces of her shame, the misguided mother, seeing her infant dead, may cut it in pieces, or otherwise make away with it: this is certainly a proof that her fears have overcome her nature; but it does not amount to murder—the same unhappy being might, were the child alive, be as kind to it as others; but the consciousness of not doing it harm, thus urges her to destroy the body after death, and so save herself from the consequences of her false step. Therefore other evidence ought to be considered necessary besides the mere finding of the body in a mutilated state.

In "Carr's Northern Tour," he informs us that in Copenhagen, there is an hospital for the reception of women who wish concealment during their lying-in. They are permitted to enter it in masks—their names are not taken—they are seen by none but the proper attendant, and go out disguised.

By this institution, he says, the crime of infanticide is greatly diminished. Such an asylum would be of great use, and serve to save many infants' lives as well as their unfortunate mothers', who in the commission of their crime may be said to be uninfluenced by reason—for shame and fear are powerful agents in deranging a weak female's mind.

CURIOUS HYPOCHONDRIAC CASE,

Communicated by Dr. Eusabé de Salle, one of the Editors of the Paris Medical Review.*

THE bias which the hypochondriac disease produces on the human mind has afforded many instances of its effects almost incredible: men while under this disorder have imagined themselves glass, and feared to walk lest they should fall and break—others would not approach a horse lest he should bite them; and many have fancied themselves absolutely dead. We are told that lately a gentleman afflicted with hypochondria, shut out the light from his apartment, laid himself out in bed as a corpse, and having previously sent for the sexton, desired him to go directly and toll his death-bell. The sexton obeyed, and the *dead* gentleman listened to the ringing with great solemnity, until conceiving that the sexton did the duty rather clumsily, and sounded some improper strokes, he jumped up enraged, and proceeded to the belfry, where he completed the service by ringing his own death-bell. Amongst the various stories related about hypochondriacs, the greatest number perhaps have not had their foundation in truth. When

* This gentleman is the translator into French, of Lord Byron's works.

scientific men meet cases which strengthen and embellish a favourite doctrine, they colour rather highly their descriptions of them, in the same way that Sir Astley Cooper painted the story of scraping the dancing master's shins, (see page 23.) The following case is free from all those great improbabilities, and was communicated to us by a gentleman who is never so enthusiastic in his doctrines as to embellish them with that which does not belong to them: Doctor Eusabé de Salle, of whom we speak, treated the man himself, and he related it to us, in order to shew the benefit of humouring the patient, as well as the probable use of the shower bath in hypochondriac cases. The patient was a Parisian gentleman, about thirty-five years of age, and had suffered mentally from the death of a dearly beloved young lady to whom he was to have been married. He was two years gradually growing more and more melancholy and emaciated; and at last would lay in bed for three, four, or five days together, regardless of sustenance, which he took more by the persuasion of his friends than from any call of nature. The doctor was sent for by his elder brother, on account of a paper which he wrote upon hypochondria, having fallen into the latter's hands. On visiting the patient, the doctor found him in a state of deep despondency, although not of extreme debility. He said it would be impossible for any physician to cure him, unless he could extinguish the fire which he said was confined within him. At first it was thought that he spoke figuratively, meaning the fire of his feelings, but on further explanation, he proved to the doctor that he meant nothing figurative, but *bona fide* terrestrial fire. He declared he could feel the flames beating internally against his ribs, and fancied that his breath was the smoke which ascended from it. He was perfectly rational on every other subject; but always shewed a wish to return to that of his disorder, on which he would reason ingeniously. The doctor passed an hour in conversation with him for the first time, and endeavoured to convince him that fire could not possibly exist within him: he once observed to the patient, that even admitting that fire could exist within him it would soon consume him; this the hypochondriac met by saying, that the reason why he was not burnt had been because there was no aperture to admit the air into his breast below, which he said clearly accounted for the phenomenon. Thus would he argue, nor could all the Doctor said convince him of his error. Upon the second visit the patient was still more depressed than on the preceding, and he informed the Doctor, with a tone of sorrow, that he would burst at 12 o'clock the next day, and be blown to atoms: that he wished to make his will, and to be brought into a court-yard a little before the explosion, in order that the house might not catch fire. The Doctor paused a moment, as if he had been digesting the consequences of the approaching catastrophe, when he suddenly addressed his patient in the following manner:—"My friend," said he, "I am now convinced that what you have said is true, but I think I have hit upon a remedy against so unhappy an accident." This was received with a sigh and a shake of the head. "But," continued the Doctor, "listen to my plan, and I am sure you will approve of it. I propose to have you taken into the court-yard a few minutes before 12 o'clock, and on the instant that you expect the fire to burst out, a quantity of water shall be poured over you, so as completely to extinguish the fire—I have read of a case similar to yours which was effectually cured by such means, and I have no doubt of success in yours." The hypochondriac seemed delighted with the proposal; hope shot across his countenance and he smiled for the first time in two years. The whole of that day and night his spirits were lighter than before, and another hour's conversation with the Doctor next morning gave him full confidence. The friends of the patient being made acquainted with the remedy intended to be employed, all things were duly prepared, and at three minutes before twelve he was led into the court-yard.

As it was in the middle of summer, little bad effects could ensue from stripping the patient, so accordingly it was done, and he was placed upon a chair, the Doctor beside him. As he was taking leave of his relations and the Doctor—which he did lest the cure should fail—he turned suddenly to the latter and said, I see by your watch it is within half a minute, —where's the water?—haste! I feel the fire rising!—At this instant the Doctor gave the signal, and from a window, directly above, a large tub of cold water was showered upon his head. The column sunk him off his chair: but he still cried out to continue the water, which was done by four men with pails successively, until he nearly fainted. He was then removed to his bed-room, rubbed well with dry cloths, took a cordial of hot wine and was put to bed. The good effect already began to shew itself, for he shook hands with the Doctor, and called him his saviour.

Doctor de Salle repeated the shower-bath every second day, under the pretence of guarding him against future attacks; and in six weeks he became quite another man.

Upon the use of the shower-bath in hypochondriac cases, as well as other remedies, we will dilate more largely under the disease Hypochondriasis.

THE PROPERTIES OF AIR.
[CONTINUED.]

THAT water is present in air is evident, from seeing it precipitate in a cloud, as a receiver is exhausting on the air-pump; from the dew on windows, or other cold bodies, when water stands for some time in a hot room; from the wet hair of those that ascend the high mountains; and from its entering springes when hung in air: from many more proofs it is evident that air is a menstruum for water. Air, lying on water, and rubbing perpetually against it, by this contact, and their natural attraction, the two fluids mutually imbibe each other. That a heavy body can rise in a lighter one, when its particles are separated, and its surface by that means increased, is certain, from gold being dissolved, and of course hanging in *aqua regia*—copper, in *aqua fortis*, &c. Water rises in air by the same law. Heat assists all solutions—hence the quantity of clouds and rain where the sun is vertical, the drying quality of air in spring, and the rainy fogs in winter; for summer's warmth assists in filling the air with water, and the winter's cold condenses and brings it down in high latitudes: and, as the high regions of the air are cold and thin, the particles of water run together and form clouds about the height of the mountains: the wind, and their own attraction, assists this junction, till their surfaces become so diminished that they precipitate in drops of rain. If the drop be frozen in its descent, it falls on the ground an hail-stone—if the cloud be frozen, then broken fragments descend in flakes of snow. Fogs in the evening are occasioned by that cold condensing the vapours newly raised from the earth before they are properly mixed with the air.

When the atmosphere is light, the noxious air pent up in the cavities of mines (communicating with the outward air) will, by its effort to restore an equilibrium, swell into the mine; and hence, the suffocating damp which is met with in mines when the barometer is low. The fire-damp proceeds from the same cause; only that its particles are of the phlogistic or inflammable nature, as rising from the sulphurous, nitrous, or oleagenous strata in the mine.

Fixed air (that wonderous antiseptic) arises from the effervescence of any acid and alkaline mixture, and easiest from chalk and oil of vitriol: it is a modification of the nitrous acid: liquor fermenting discharges plenty of it, and it is found also in the common atmosphere. Water imbibes it, and thence acquires the sparkling appearance of Pyrmont water. Its medical properties are powerful.

Nitrous air is produced from the effervescence of copper-filings and nitrous acid: it diminishes common air, and their mixture gives a brown effervescence.

Inflammable air will arise from bright iron-filings and vitriolic acid.

Alkaline air is expelled by a candle from a gun-barrel filled with a quarter of a pound of sal ammoniac, and three-quarters quick lime.

Copper and spirit of salt produce an air, through quicksilver, that is so very noxious—quickly absorbed by water—and a candle burns green in it. Water saturated with it is a strong spirit of salt, and dissolves iron with great rapidity.

Dephlogisticated air (or *perfect* atmospheric air) is therefore capable of supporting life six times as long in a given quantity, than common air. A candle burns astonishingly bright in it—a firebrand crackles in it—and inflammable air explodes prodigiously loud in it. It is expelled by a smart fire, from a paste formed of red lead and spirit of nitre, out of a gun barrel filled to the mouth with powder of flint, or any earthy matter void of phlogiston—as pipe clay, &c. Common air imbibes phlogiston, which diminishes that air by precipitating the fixed air it naturally contains; and it becomes noxious in proportion to the diminution it is capable of suffering. Hence phlogiston is the best test of air—unwholesome as it has *more* in it, and incapable of diminution; and wholesome as it has *less* phlogiston in it. Respiration is a phlogistic process, affecting air in the very same manner as putrefaction, diminishing its quantity and specific gravity, and rendering it unfit for respiration; yet still capable of being restored by agitation in water, or a contact with vegetables. From the smoke, putrid effluvia, calcination of metals, and breathing of animals, the air must be continually contaminated, particularly in cities: providence has wisely made the vegetable kingdom the cure for this evil; for plants imbibe nourishment from putrid and phlogistic air at their leaves; as may be seen by the superior vigour of plants growing near great cities, by their growing on dung heaps, walls without earth, and by a green plant put in noxious air, for it imbibes nourishment thus, and cures the air at the same time. Hence gardening and a country life is wholesome: and hence it is good to keep flower-pot plants in rooms, and in low courts and other crowded places it is still more so. Air comes nearly in contact with the blood in its passage through the lungs, giving phlogiston to it when it wants it, and taking phlogiston from it when it has too much. Too much phlogiston renders the blood black and thick, but air having access to it, even through the vesicle of the lungs, renders it again red, and dephlogisticated air still more perfectly so. Thus we see the importance of good air to the support and prolongation of life, as well as the difficulty of removing disease when that vital nourishment is adulterated. We will proceed to respiration and circulation of th blood in our next.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received the facetious anecdote about the Rakisiri Quacks, (Jordans,) and are mindful of it. Does our correspondent know that these are th fellows who gulled the people abou. Whitechapel by pretending they had received their knowledge in a "golden dream?"

We are sorry that Quack Twynam is in such a passion with our Second Number:—we assure him that our only wish in thus exposing his roguery and ignorance is the good of the public. We never thought of him in a personal point of view.

Our eloquent correspondent of Finsbury-square would serve the philanthropic cause he has espoused by favouring us with his opinions upon it.

We should be much obliged by an interview with the parties that tell us of the poisoning of their child by Mrs. Johnson's soothing syrup. We recommend an indictment.

We thank CHEMICUS *for his flattering opinion of us; and shall be happy to hear from him and his colleagues.*

We recommend the person who sent us the letter about the horses' tails, to read our "Advice on Drunkenness," contained in the first number—his spleen is affected.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and —WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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NEWLY INVENTED SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

For extracting Poison from the Stomach, &c.

Our plate to this number gives a correct representation of the instrument invented by Mr. Reed, of Hosmondon-lane, Keat, and with which Sir Astley Cooper first performed the operation of removing liquid from the stomach of a dog. We copy it from a drawing given to us by the inventor: it represents the pump in the act of conveying the fluid from the stomach. The instrument is extremely simple; it is composed of a brass syringe, at the apex of which is a self-acting valve:* the air is admitted to the body of the syringe by a narrow pipe, receiving the air at the top, and conveys it longitudinally downwards to the bottom: thus in pushing the handle of the syringe downwards, the air escapes; but in drawing it out the valve shuts up the communication, and therefore gives the instrument the action of a pump. To its end is attached a long tube, stiffened by gum, terminating in a round ivory hollow nob, perforated with holes, and through this the fluid ascends. The instrument, also, can take on the office of injection; and we will describe it in our next number, which will contain a plate of it in that operation. The application of this instrument to disease (which we think by far the most useful point to direct our attention) shall be also considered. We shall suggest an improvement. Mr. Reed, the inventor and patentee, states himself to be a gardener—that he was very fond of studying hydrostatics and pneumonics, which, with the illness of a lady, gave him first the idea of the syringe: and that he afterwards applied it to the office of a pump. He has also invented a syringe, on a large scale, by which fruit trees can be watered at a great distance: and it may also be used as a domestic fire-engine: for a description of it we refer our readers to the Mechanics' Magazine of the ensuing week. Mr. Reed is between fifty and sixty.

—

HEADACHES—INDIGESTION IN SEDENTARY PERSONS.

More than one half the people of Europe are tortured with this disease, and will continue to be so tortured while they allow their digestive organs to become deranged. Tesans in France, and salts in England alike disorder the bowels; a Frenchman only takes a purgative once or twice a year, while an Englishman swallows a pint of salts and water as often in the month. Constipation is the natural consequence in both; for strong purgatives, and no purgatives at all, are bad modes to restore the bowels to their regular action. Hence a long train of disorders, amongst which are most frequently headaches.

The disease arises from many causes, which we may, with very little exception, call secondary causes, the first or original being, we believe, from deranged digestion, in all cases, we might say, except in those headaches proceeding from translated gout, from rheumatic, epileptic or venereal affections. Those headaches called nervous, bilious, inflammatory, plethoric, febrile, &c. owe their origin, in general, to constipation:—on the faith in that principle, that to cure, we must restore *regularity* in the functions of the bowels; and this is to be done by attending to the following directions, which are equally applicable to the disease of indigestion, in people of sedentary habits; let the food be light, and taken moderately at dinner, drinking no more than a glass of wine and water, or weak spirits and water cold; take gentle exercise, retire to rest at a certain hour every night, drink no malt liquor, wear a light night cap, and take five or ten grains of Mr. Abernethy's universal remedy, *the blue pill** every second night, and the following dose on the morning after the pills are taken, and *before breakfast:*

---

* Get one drachm of the mass of *blue pill* sold at the shops, and divide it into *twelve* pils; each pill is five grains—one or two is a dose—if one moves, it is enough.

Of Epsom salts, quarter of an ounce.
Of sub-carbonate of potass, one scruple.
Dissolve them in a wine glass full of cold water, with a little white sugar. Put the mixture into a large glass, and add a table spoon full of lemon juice. Drink it while it is frothing up. As the sub-carbonate of potass dissolves when in the air it should be kept in a corked phial.

Let the above be persisted in for a fortnight; when the pills may be given at more distant times; at the end of another fortnight it may be discontinued.

We would recommend all cases of headaches to try this plan, before they have recourse to others; and we dare assert it will be successful in the generality of those disorders. In headaches attended with fulness of body and plethora, it will be well to lose blood from the arm, and if the pain be obstinate, cupping at the back of the neck, and blistering the temples, first having taken a purgative. In weakly constitutions a table spoon full of the *tonic* infusion to be found in page 48, should be taken one hour before dinner every day, in addition to the above remedy. Those who suffer from headaches should never write at low desks, and should sleep with their heads elevated.

As the above observations are applicable to all headaches from whatever cause they arise, we will leave our readers to try the remedy pointed out in them for a week, when we will proceed to particular kinds o headaches, where other remedies may be necessary.

SORE THROAT.

At this season of the year, as well as in the spring, this disease is very common, particularly in young people. We mean that species of sore throat which is termed by the faculty cynanche tonsilaris, and by the non-medical people, throat quinsy. It is usually the effect of cold caught after dancing, or by wet feet. It comes on by sensitive tightness inside of the throat, difficulty of swallowing, with a sensation of pain in both ears: these symptoms encrease, the pulse becomes full and quick, thirst prevails, headache, and hot dry skin. If immediate relief be not obtained, the symptoms become alarming; the patient can scarcely swallow; the fever encreases; the swelling becomes apparent externally, as well as internally, till suffocation terminates the sufferings.

Remedies in this disease must be applied soon. No time is to be lost. On the first appearance of difficulty in swallowing, the following must be given to open the bowels—

Of Senna tea, a cup full; dissolve in it Three drachms of Epsom salts.

This is a dose for a grown person: about half that quantity will be sufficient for a child above ten years. When this is done, let the patient's legs be bathed in warm water, and put to bed with three or four folds of flannel about the neck. The purgative above-mentioned should be given in the morning, or middle of the day, so that its operation may be over by night; at night then give the following—

Of mindererus spirit, one ounce.
Of antimonial wine thirty drops.
Of common water three ounces.
Of syrup of squills one drachm: mix.

Give a table spoonful of this every hour until the patient freely perspires, covering him warm, and let him lay in bed next day. This plan will, in nine cases out of ten, cut short the disorder, which were it permitted to advance for twenty-four hours more, would, in all probability, endanger life. The drink should be whey; to make which (see page 7.) Should the symptoms not abate on the day after the above remedies are applied, let the patient have a blister put round the throat, immediately under the jaw: this will almost to a certainty succeed in suddenly stopping the disease. If however the disorder advance, by neglect of its treatment, or disposition in the constitution, let a physician or experienced surgeon be instantly sent for. The following case may serve to warn people in the first place from catching cold through their own folly, and from delaying the proper remedies:—

A fellow pupil of ours was about to be married to a deserving and affluent young lady, he having completed his professional studies, The

wedding day was fixed, and the happy couple anticipating all the blessings apparently hovering over their future life, when the lady went to a ball lightly clad; next morning she was attacked with sore throat, but paid no attention to it, although her lover warned her of her danger, and endeavoured to persuade her to submit to take medicine. She, however, contented herself with saying, it would soon go off—"it was *only a cold*." In three days more she could not swallow, from the swelling of the internal parts of the throat, and to save her from suffocation, an operation was immediately proposed. This was permitted, and was performed by two of the ablest surgeons, Mr. Colles and Mr. Dease, professors of surgery and anatomy in the royal college of surgeons in Ireland. When the tumour was penetrated, that accident which often happens, deprived her of life—the contents of the tumour suffocated her

CHILBLAINS.

THIS disease is an inflammatory swelling, which appears in cold weather upon the heels, toes and fingers, most commonly, and is of a purple or lead colour. It is attended with a shooting pain at particular times, and an intolerable itching. Sometimes the skin remains whole, and at others it becomes ulcerated. In very severe cold the parts often mortify. As long as the skin remains entire, the best application is warm spirits of rosemary. The parts should be bathed and rubbed with it at night, and immediately covered warmly with calico; if on the feet, cotton stockings should be worn during the night, nor should they be removed in the morning, but an additional pair put on. In the course of the day the following embrocation must be used by moistening the parts with it:

Compound camphor liniment.
Soap liniment—of each half an ounce.
Oil of turpentine three drachms.
Mix them.

If the parts ulcerate, warm poultices must be applied, and the best sort of poultice is to be found in page 32. No. 2. This application should not be continued longer than three or four days; but the parts should be dressed with the following ointment spread thinly on lint or soft linen, first having washed the parts with warm water.

Diluted citron ointment,
Spermaceti ointment, or common lard, equal parts—well mixed.

Towards the latter end of the disease change it for this—

Common white ointment, half an ounce
Red precipitate powder, ten grains.
Mix them.

And during the disease the bowels should be kept regular by the purging pills, page 32, No. 2.

Children and old people are more subject to this disorder, and those of scrofulous habit more frequently than others. All who are subject to it should particularly avoid either wet or cold in winter as much as possible; and therefore, on the approach of the cold weather, should wear woollen gloves and stockings, and be careful not to put their hands or feet near the fire if they should be cold.

CURIOUS CASE OF GUN-SHOT WOUND.

From the Note Book of a Military Surgeon.

IN going through the hospital on the quay at Ostend, in order to assist the wounded French officers that arrived from Waterloo the night before, I was accosted by a tall man, of about fifty years of age, a brigadier-general. He was a true picture of the old Napoleon soldier—the thick mustache—the dark, curled and careless locks—the stern countenance—the round ear-rings—the decoration of the legion of honor—all marked him out as one of the sons of glory. He advanced towards me, bowing, and seemed to fix his full black eyes on mine, as he asked me for my assistance. I begged to know where he was wounded: and he informed me that he had been shot through the head, that the wounds were nearly healed, but that he was *quite blind*. I looked at his eyes, and saw no alteration in them from the natural appearances; but on closer inspection found the pupils dilated and fixed. He then shewed me the entrance and the exit of the ball. It entered be

tween the top line of the ear and the whisker, and having passed across the head, came out exactly opposite between the other ear and whisker. It was therefore evident that the loss of vision was occasioned by the optic nerves having been totally divided by the ball in its passage. From the intensity with which I examined his case, he seemed to gather hopes of relief. I hesitated as I told him of the irreparable loss of his sight; and I saw the tears start from those fine, but now useless eyes, with a sympathy that instantly affected my own. It was one of the most extraordinary wounds I ever witnessed which did not prove fatal.

—

TO PRESERVE THE SKIN IN WASHING THE FACE.

To our fair readers, and to those gentlemen whose complexion has not yet received the hardening touch of the weather, the following mode of washing the face may prove agreeable.

Let the face be first washed with soap and *rain* or *river* water well; then with the hand throw up pure *pump water* on the face from another basin: the effect will be, that the face will be made cleaner than by any other process, and all the other deleterious particles of the soap neutralized; for *hard* water decomposes soap, the alkaline of the latter unites with the earthy salts of the former, while the oil and earths combine into nearly insoluble soap, which floats on the water.

—

TO PREVENT DANGER FROM OXALIC ACID.

Our friend and fellow pupil Dr. Robert Venables of Henley, has written an ingenious essay upon the manner of preventing the evil effects arising from taking oxalic acid into the stomach, instead of Epsom salts, and the observance of his plan has been of benefit. Others have not been backward in promoting the same intention. Our plan, which is very simple, we think, if followed, will effectually settle the matter. Let the druggists and apothecaries unanimously determine not to sell this poison, or let the legislature interdict them from it, and consign it to the oil shops: we see no medical purpose that oxalic acid is used for; and by the above plan the article could be procured for its general uses.

—

MEDICAL PROPERTIES OF GRAPES.

The ripe fruit of the vine is a cooling antiseptic, and when eaten in large quantities, diarrhœtic and laxative. Grapes are very useful in febrile diseases, particularly in bilious and putrid fevers, dysentery, and all inflammatory affections. In Syria, the juice of ripe grapes inspissated, is used in great quantities in the above diseases.* Grapes have been strongly recommended as an article of common diet in phthisis, and they certainly contain much bland nutritious matter, well fitted for consumptive habits. Raisins are more laxative than the fresh fruit, and are apt to prove flatulent when eaten in any considerable quantity.—

Mat. Med

—

TO IMPROVE THE FLAVOUR OF ROASTED GRAIN.

The result of our experiments upon breakfast powder are these—for which we had not room in our last number.

We burned in a cylindrical coffee burner three equal portions of rye; one a quarter of an hour, another for twenty-five minutes, and the third for thirty-five minutes:—in the first portion the grain was merely browned, in the second the outside skin of the grain was nearly chocolate colour, with the pulp a lighter brown, and in the third the grain was black quite through. We put a portion of each, ground, into a coffee-pot, with an equal quantity of boiling water; the first had a faint odour of coffee, but mixed with a raw grain taste; the second had a high flavour of coffee, with very little bitter; and the third gave a most unpleasant bitter, and a taste of burnt bread. We took another portion of raw rye, and wetted i with pure milk; this we roasted in

* Russel's Natural History of Aleppo, vol. 1, p. 83.

the way above-mentioned for half an hour: on being ground and infused, it produced the most agreeable flavour of all.

We recommend those who use roasted grain, to put into their coffee pot with the powder as much salt as will sit on half a sixpence, and instead of *boiling* the grain, merely infuse it by hot water. To still more improve it, a tea spoon full of the *best* coffee might be added; or a tea spoon full of the essence of coffee.

WOMEN AND INFANTS AT GUILDFORD TREAD MILL.

We insert the following letter, without comment on the quarter from whence it came. We would ask, however, why should such an abominable act have taken place.—was it the "inhumanity" of the magistrates or of "the underlings?" When fault ceases, so should cease blame; we shall therefore say no more upon this particular abuse, but until the barbarous practice of putting females to such labour as the tread-wheel is abolished, *unequivocally* our exertions shall never cease.* We beg to direct the attention of our correspondent of Finsbury Square, to this reply to his letter.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I have been a reader of your valuable little work from its commencement, and from the impartiality with which it has been conducted, have little fear but that the following statement, in reference to a letter which it recently contained on the subject of the tread-mill in Guildford Gaol, will find a place in its columns.

The writer of that letter stated most "unequivocally, that at that time there were toiling at Guildford tread-wheel, two mothers giving suck, their infants, each no more than three months old, who, from the diminution of the mother's milk, produced by the exhausting nature of their labour, were in a state of starvation, which, combined with exposure to the cold, caused them to be incessantly crying!" The subject was one, if true, which demanded redress; and deeply feeling the stain it was calculated to make on the character of a nation boasting of the mildness of its constitution and the clemency of its laws, I determined on making those personal enquiries which could alone enable me to judge with certainty of its accuracy. The result has been satisfactory to me; though not to the extent which every principle of humanity would have led me to believe was probable. It is unhappily true that two women were, at the period in question (but not now) toiling at the tread-wheel; but only for a limited number of hours. One of them had an infant as young as was stated in your correspondent's letter, the other one was much older. Neither had suffered from the causes which were stated, but on the contrary were in good health, and were amply provided for, through the benevolence and liberality of the governor's wife,—a person whose kindness and attention to female prisoners, is the theme of almost every one of them. On no occasion are prisoners, be they male or female, put to the wheel in Guildford Gaol, until they have been visited by Mr. Jackson, the surgeon, a gentleman, of whose humanity every one speaks in the warmest praise.

I have been induced to trouble you with this statement of facts, in order that no unmerited stigma should rest on the characters of individuals in every respect so worthy of opposite treatment. I deplore, as much as any man, the fact of women, in a country like this, being exposed to suffering, beyond that which confinement brings with it; but that is a punishment which the legislature has given certain individuals the option of inflicting, and where they sentence females to it, the inhumanity is with them, and not with the underlings, who are merely called on to see its performance.

I am, Sir,

Dec. 24. Your well-wisher,

—— M.

* We should feel highly favoured by any information relative to magistrates' commitments of females to labour.—We have a warm corner in reserve for some of these dictatorial tyrants.

WINE.

Its Manufacture, Character, and Medical Properties.

ALTHOUGH the London and Edinburgh colleges have designated *Sherry*, only, yet all the genuine wines are occasionally used as medicinal agents, and therefore we shall take a general view of the manufacture, character, and properties of wine.

In the wine countries, when grapes are fully ripe they are gathered, and immediately subjected to the press, by which the juice is separated from the skins and seeds. In some places the grapes are previously picked from the stalks, the good being separated from all the unsound with great care;* in some they are pressed just as they are gathered from the vines; and in other places they are almost converted into raisins before they are pressed.† The expressed juice is called *must*, and contains sugar, mucilage, and jelly—albumen, gluten‡ supertartarite of potass, and tartaric, citric and malic acids: these, when the vats holding the must are placed in a temperature of 70°, begin to act upon each other, the liquor becomes turbid, an intestine motion is evident in it; its temperature increases, a scum collects upon its surface, and carbonic acid gas is disengaged. This is the process of vinous fermentation. In a few days its activity gradually decreases, the scum and impurities subsides to the bottom, and the liquor clears, having lost its saccharine taste, and becomes *wine*. It is then put into barrels, and in due time into bottles, in both of which kind of vessels the fermentation is continued, although in an imperceptible degree; nor is it altogether completed till the wine attains the utmost limits of its age, and has passed into the acetous fermentations.

All the principles of the *must* are perhaps required for the production of wine; but the saccharine matter, the gluten, and the vegetable acid, are essential; and on the proper quantity of the first in particular, and the manner in which the fermentation is conducted, depend the strength and goodness of the wine. When the sugar is in too great quantity, and not completely decomposed, or the fermentation checked, the wine retains a sweet taste; a more proper proportion and perfect decomposition, with a brisker fermentation, render it strong and spirituous; but if the quantity of sugar be small and at the same time there is a deficiency of tartar in the *must*, a thin and weak wine is produced. When it is bottled early it becomes brisk and sparkling; and it is rough and astringent when the fermentation has been conducted on the skins, particularly on those of the coloured grapes; which also gives colour to the wine; for when the juice only is fermented, white wines are produced from coloured grapes. Wine that has been too long fermented before being put into the casks, is very apt to become sour; and frequently oxides of lead, as litharge, and white lead, are employed to correct the acidity. According to Fourcroy, these form a soluble triple salt—an aceto-tartarite of lead, by uniting with the acetic and tartaric acids in the wine; which daily experience shows, produces violent cholic, and other deleterious effects on those who drink it.

Various circumstances, such as climate, soil, and the mode of conducting the fermentation modify the flavour and taste of wine; the odour and flavour in the more fully fermented wines seem to depend on the vinous process, as it bears little resemblance to the natural flavour of the fruit; from which however in sweet and half fermented wines it is immediately discerned; but flavouring ingredients, as bitter almonds and orris root, are also used in the manufacturing of wines, Malaga, Frontignac, Tokay, Vino Tento, Montifiuscone, Schiras,

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* This is the case at Madeira; and at Epernay, where the best champaign is made. In Madeira every kind of grape which the island produces, except the Malmsey and the Sercial, are pressed together for making the wine which bears the name of the island.

† The wine of Chio, which was esteemed by the ancients for its strength, sweetness and exquisite aromatic flavour, is made from nearly dried grapes.

‡ The gluten excites the vinous fermentation in the juice of the grape when expressed. Fabroni has shown, that it is lodged on the membranes that separate the cells of the grape; and becomes mixed with the saccharine part when the juice is expressed.

and the Malmsey wines of the Greek islands, are sweet to the taste, and consequently the result of imperfect fermentation. Champaign, Gooseberry, and all sparkling wines, owe their briskness to carbonic acid gas. Hock, Rhenish, Mayne, Barsac, Burgundy, Claret, and Hermitage, contain a certain quantity of uncombined acid, and are termed light and dry; while Marsela, Madeira, Sherry,* and Port are dry and strong. The odour of Sherry is pleasant and aromatic, the taste warm, with some degree of the agreeable bitterness of the peach kernel; the taste of Port is austere and bitterish, Claret is less rough, thinner, slightly acidulous, highly flavoured and odorous, and Hock acidulous. Of the common white wines Marsela is undoubtedly the strongest; but notwithstanding these and other differences, the essential components of all wines are the following:—one or more *acids*, generally the *malic*, but in some, the *carbonic* predominates; and all contain some tartaric; *extractive matter*, which in old wines is deposited with tartar; of *volatile oil*, on which the flavour depends; *colouring matter* and *alcohol*, the most important of their ingredients, and that one on which their dietetic and medical properties principally depend. Gay Lussack has proved that this principle is ready formed in wine; and not as Fabroni supposed the result of its distillation. The following table is to shew the properties of spirits &c., found in certain wines by Neumann.

* The *Sherry* or *Sherris Sack* of Shakespeare's time, means the *dry* or *sec* wine of Xeres.

A quart of	Contains of: Highly rectified Spirit.		Thick, oily, unctuous, resinous matter.			Gummy and tartarous matter.			Water.			
	oz.	drs.	oz.	drs.	grs.	oz.	drs.	grs.	lb.	oz.	dr.	grs.
Aland	1	6	3	2	0	1	5	0	2	5	3	0
Alicant	3	6	6	0	20	0	1	40	2	2	6	0
Burgundy	2	2	0	4	0	0	1	40	2	9	0	20
Carcassone	2	6	0	4	10	0	1	20	2	8	4	30
Champagne	2	5	0	6	40	0	1	0	2	8	3	0
French	3	0	0	6	40	0	1	0	2	8	0	20
Frontignac	3	0	3	4	0	0	5	20	2	4	6	30
Vin de Grave	2	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	2	9	0	0
Hermitage	2	7	1	2	0	0	1	40	2	7	5	20
Madeira	2	3	3	2	0	2	0	0	2	4	3	0
Malmsey	4	0	4	3	0	2	3	0	2	1	2	0
Vino de Monto Puluano	2	6	0	3	0	0	2	40	2	8	0	20
Moselle	2	2	0	4	20	0	1	30	2	9	0	10
Muscadine	3	0	2	4	0	1	0	0	2	5	4	0
Neufchatel	3	2	4	0	0	1	7	0	2	2	7	0
Palmsee	2	3	2	4	0	4	4	0	2	2	5	0
Pontac	2	0	0	5	20	0	2	0	2	9	0	40
Old Rhenish	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	20	2	8	5	40
Rhenish	2	2	0	3	20	0	1	34	2	9	1	6
Salamanca	3	0	3	4	0	2	0	0	2	3	4	0
Sherry	3	0	6	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	6	0
Spanish	1	2	2	4	0	9	4	0	1	10	6	0
Vino Tinto	3	0	6	4	0	1	6	0	2	0	6	0
Tokay	2	2	4	3	0	5	0	0	2	0	3	0
Red Tyrol	1	4	1	2	0	0	4	0	2	8	6	0
Red Wine	1	6	0	4	40	0	2	20	2	9	3	20
White	2	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	2	7	0	0

Wine when good, and of a proper age, is cordial and tonic; but when new, it is flatulent, debilitating and purgative, and intoxicates sooner than old wine. In a dietetical point of view, the temperate use of it promotes digestion, and gives additional energy to the heart and arteries, strengthens the animal functions, exhilarates the spirits, sharpens the wit, and calls into action all the intellectual powers; but when taken in excess, it intoxicates, producing sickness, headache, vertigo and diarrhœa, with nervous tremors which continue sometimes for days; and like ardent spirits, its habitual excessive use extinguishes the faculties of both body and mind, producing dyspepsia, emaciation and debility, hepatic and pulmonary inflammation, palsy, gout, dropsy, and a long train of diseases and wretchedness.* As a remedy wine is stimulant, antiseptic, tonic, and antispasmodic; its stimulating properties are less diffusible, but more permanent than alcohol, and hence its dose is more easily regulated, and its effects are more certain. In all diseases accompanied by much debility, as typhoid fevers, and in cases of extensive ulcerations or gangrene,† wine is not only the best addition to bark and opium, but is a remedy on which alone there is much reliance. In some convulsive affections, as symptomatic tetanus and chorea, much benefit has been derived from its use; and in the convalescences from all severe diseases it is the most efficacious, and the quickest means we can employ for restoring the exhausted strength and vigour. Wine operates less powerfully on the system in a state of disease than in health; the quantity, however, to be given, and the proper period of exhibiting it, require to be regulated with much judgment. The skin being open, and not dry or hot, the strength sinking, and the ulcerations, if any exist, assuming a gangrenous appearance, indicate the use of wine; and, when in the event of the pulse being low and fluttering, wine restores its firmness without increasing delirium, and induces sleep, it may be given with the confidence of the greatest benefit: but if on the contrary, it renders the pulse quicker, increases heat, thirst, delirium, or watchfulness, its exhibition ought immediately to be discontinued: the quantity to be given depends entirely on the nature of the disease, and the intentions for which it is administered. In typhus, the proper rule is to give it until the pulse fills, the delirium abates, and the extremities warm; and it should be repeated on the smallest appearance of stupor, quick and sinking pulse, or tremor; a few glasses, and then even diluted with water, given in the space of twenty-four hours, will often produce all that is required from wine; but sometimes very large quantities are necessary. In a case of symptomatic tetanus mentioned by Currie * five bottles of Madeira wine were taken every day for some time without producing the least symptom of ebriety, or morbidly exciting the pulse; but on the contrary, with the utmost advantage in allaying irritation, and relieving the patient. In ordinary cases of fevers, however, wine is perhaps in general, too freely given, so as to occasion exhaustion, instead of supporting strength.

* For its more detailed evil effects, see "Advice on Drunkenness," (page 4.)

† In gangrene arising from too high action, it is improper, at least until the mortified parts separate from the sound

FEMALE BEAUTY.

[CONTINUED.]

THE influence of the peculiarities which distinguish the two sexes, is evidently the primary cause of their *peculiar* beauty. This influence is incontestible. The appearance and the manners of Eunuchs approach to those of women. Women who have remained in a state of ungenerative inertia during life, acquire the appearance and the manners of men. At the age of puberty in man, the voice becomes more strong, the muscular motions more vigorous, and the physiognomy better determined. Then appears the beard, the unequivocal sign of new energy. In woman also the breasts expand, the eyes assume

* Reports on water.

a peculiar sparkling, and the countenance becomes more expressive; but, at the same time, more timid and more reserved.

The peculiar circumstances which contribute to female beauty, independent of that original happy organization, which in general these only modify, but which, in a series of generations, they may totally change, are a mild climate, a fertile soil, a generous but temperate diet, a regular mode of life, the guidance and suppression of passions, and even cosmetic attentions. The more also that a people is advanced in social, moral, and political institutions, the more (other causes being proportionate) does it advance, as to the nobleness, the elegance, and the grace of the individuals who compose it.

Female beauty differs among the various races of mankind. There is, however, a standard of beauty independent of all idea of that partiality which is wounded by pride, and which self-love with such obstinacy maintains. The negro, who wisely in a hot climate, presses for his mate a woman of colour, always awards the superiority in beauty to the white. The Calmuck knows well the immense difference there is between his own beauties and those of Zehercassia, whom he impassionately seeks for, and obtains by the weight of gold, or the force of arms. Every where throughout the universe, a young and beautiful woman of the European race commands the admiration, and receives the homage of men. We accordingly find, that the most perfect model of beauty has been created by the arts among a people who possessed all the advantages we have enumerated above, and where living beauty must have abounded. Yet few were the living beauties from whose charms such ideal models could be framed. The difficulty of finding these, even among the women of Greece, must have been very great indeed, when Praxiteles and Apelles were obliged to have recourse to the same person for the charms of the Venus of Gnidus, executed in white marble, and the Venus of Cos, drawn in colours.

It is asserted by Athenæus, that both those famous productions, the picture as well as the statue, were copied after the Courtezan Phryne, who, born at Thespia in Boetia, had exercised her empire at Athens. After having studied several attitudes, she fancied to have discovered one more favourable than the rest, for displaying all her bodily perfections, and both painter and sculptor were obliged to adopt her position. From this cause, the Venus of Gnidus, and the Venus of Cos were so perfectly alike, that it was impossible to remark any difference in their features, contour, or more particularly, in their attitude. Both represented Phryne coming out of the sea, on the beach of Sciron, where she was wont to bathe in the Saronic gulph, between Athens and Eleusis. But the painting of Apelles was far from exciting so much enthusiasm among the Greeks as the sculpture of Praxiteles. They fancied the marble moved—that it seemed to speak; "and their illusion," says Lucian, "was so great, that they ended by applying their lips to those of the Goddess." It is said to have been at the feast of Neptune that Phryne, in the presence of all the people of Eleusis, went naked into the sea to bathe, and that it was from the exhibition of so beautiful a woman, that Praxiteles formed his immortal sculpture, and that Apelles made his admirable picture of Venus Anadyomene. To her native city Phryne testified her attachment, by setting up there an inestimable statue of Cupid, the master-piece of Praxiteles, from whom she obtained it as a present.

Let us now briefly examine this model of female beauty, the VENUS DE MEDICI. This is doubtless the most exquisitely beautiful remain of antiquity. The admirable form of the Mammæ, whence man first learns ideal beauty, which, without being too large, occupy the bosom, rise from it with nearly equal curves on every side, and equally terminate in their apices; the flexible waist gently tapering little further than the middle of the trunk; the lower portion of it beginning gradually to swell out higher even than the umbilicus; the gradual expansion of the hips—the cha-

racteristic of the female—expansions which increase till they reach their greatest extent at the superior part of the thigh; the fulness behind the upper part, and on each side of the lower part of the spine, commencing as high as the waist, and terminating in the still greater swell of the distinctly separated hips; the flat expanse between these, and immediately over the fissure of the hips, relieved by a considerable dimple on each side, and caused by the elevation of the surrounding parts; the fine swell of the broad abdomen distinguished laterally by a gentle depression from the more muscular parts on the side of the pelvis; the round elevation of the thighs; their admirable fulness inward or towards each other, by which they almost seem to intrude upon each other—all these admirable characteristics of female form, constitute a being worthy of occupying the temples of Greece—present an object finer, alas! than even nature seems capable of producing, and offer to all nations and ages a theme of admiration.

The errors of this model are—that the arms, which are of modern construction, are unworthy of the figure, having nothing feminine or beautiful in their form; too strong depression, or rather fold, below the hips; the form of the hips themselves, which are not sufficiently diffused, especially downward. The knees, lower parts of the legs, and the ankles, also, are perhaps scarcely slender enough.

It was at the extremity of the modern Cape Crio, anciently Triopium, a promontory of Doris, a province of Caria, that was built the celebrated city of Gnidus. Here Venus was worshipped; here was seen the statue of that goddess, the most beautiful of the works of Praxiteles. A temple far from spacious, and open on all sides, contained it, without concealing it from view; and in whatever point of view it was examined, it excited equal admiration. It was of such uncommon beauty that it inflamed with a violent passion another Pygmalion, who endeavoured to animate its lifeless charms.* The most advantageous offers could not prevail on the Gnidians to part with this masterpiece; and Pliny, who relates the fact, praises them for a noble refusal. The object of which immortalized their city, as well as their passion for the fine arts. It is in northern countries assuredly, that beauty is most durable; and it is also there, that in modern times it has reached the highest perfection. This we shall consider in another number.

* Ferunt amore captum quemdam, cum delituisset noctu, simulachro cohœsisse, ejusque cupiditatis esse indicem maculam.
PLIN. HIST. NAT. lib. xxxvi. cap. v.

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HOHENLOHE'S NEW MIRACLE!

WE think the following case, if examined with attention, will to every reflecting mind carry conviction of the true source from which arises these imputed miracles, namely, the mere effect of confidence in the imagination. The statement is copied from "*The Dublin Freeman's Journal.*"

"Miss Margaret Rourke, daughter of Andrew Rourke of Tyrrell's town, in the county of Dublin, Esq. had been during the last seven years in a very delicate state of health. In Nov. 1816, whilst at school at the Ursuline Convent of Cork, she was attacked by the measles, which so much affected her constitution, that from that period, up to the morning of the 15th instant, she could not repose on her left side, or read or write a line without feeling most violent and acute pain in that side In January 1823, her illness considerably increased, and for the last nine months became so alarming that little or no hope could be entertained of her recovery. Two eminent physicians in England pronounced her consumptive, and during the last six weeks her lungs were declared by a distinguished professional gentleman to be imposthumated. An idea of this young lady's situation for the last nine months, may be formed from these facts—that during this time she could not remain in a reclined posture for one minute without immediate danger of suffocation—that she

had a loathing and distaste for all solid food and nourishment—and for the last two months had not passed one hour in twenty-four even in an uneasy sleep, which was the only intermission of pain she experienced. Such was her state of debility and exhaustion arising from frequent spasms in the head and chest, that on the first of this month she was considered in immediate danger of death; and on the morning of that day received the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. However a slight change took place, and she continued still in a most perilous state until the evening of the 10th inst., when the symptoms of an approaching dissolution became so evident and decided, that a messenger was dispatched at night for the nearest Roman Catholic clergyman to administer the consolations of religion in her last moments. She received the holy viaticum, and at intervals appeared to her afflicted friends to have departed this life. In this state she continued till about one o'clock on the morning of the 11th. At this hour she was somewhat relieved and refreshed by a short interval of repose: yet the fatal moment seemed only to be deferred, but not suspended. On the 13th, an appearance of improvement had taken place. On the 14th, and on the morning of the 15th, the alarming symptoms returned. The 15th inst. was appointed by the pious and Rev. Prince Hohenlohe as a day of prayer. Miss Rourke had been preparing for that day. At ten minutes before 8 o'clock, the adorable sacrifice of the mass was offered up in her chamber. She received the holy sacrament, and remained in prayer for more than half an hour after. The priest and two of her friends then approached her bed side, and before he could address her, she seized his hand and exclaimed n these words, "Give glory to God—I am well!" Her countenance glowed and looked full of health and animation. After a short pause she continued thus—"At the moment I received the holy sacrament, when you made the act of resignation in these words—'not my will but thine O Lord be done,' I said 'Amen'—and drawing a sigh I felt myself cured." She then removed the chair which supported her, in a sitting posture for the last nine months; reclined at full length on her bed, extended her arms and immediately got out of bed, and throwing a large cloak over her, fell down on her knees to return thanks to God; and afterwards walked up and down the room unassisted and unsupported, having dressed herself without assistance and taken her breakfast and walked down stairs to the drawing room and remained there with her delighted and astonished friends. To this moment, 16th inst. one o'clock, this young lady continues wholly free from pain, and in perfect health. Last night for the first time during nine months, she enjoyed tranquil and refreshing sleep, and is now in the drawing room amidst the joy and congratulations of her assembled family and friends."

Here is a miracle!—A debilitated, nervous, fretting, hypochondriac, priest-ridden woman,—haunted for perhaps years before, with the horrors of perdition and the anxiety of doubts and fears,—her digestive organs deranged, consequently her nervous system, (two physicians, by the bye, pronounced her consumptive;—very well, time will tell that). She having heard of the great miracles of the Prince of Holy Men, fixed her hopes—her confidence upon the efficacy of such a cure—she "had been *preparing* for that day." The time approached,—the steps of the climax arose slowly, and with it her hopes—the moment arrives—(now or never) up she starts, and like Bombastes Furioso, who declares that "the body will take itself away," disappoints the undertaker and her numerous coach-riding and glove-expecting friends. Leaving unconsidered, the surmises which unavoidably tickle our satirical organ, when we see how frequently and suspiciously the "nine months" is mentioned by the sly Irish reporter, we cannot see any miracle in such a patient by the effect of intensely excited hope arising into confidence by the effect of su-

perstition, producing such a cure. —Cure! she may not be cured yet,—she is only under the effects of the nervous stimulus applied through the imagination — the strongest of all stimuli,—it remains for time to tell us the result:—and let us not be considered ill-natured, if, in discharging our duty as we profess, we say that she will either die a lunatic, or sink, from her present disorder (admitting that the "two English physicians" spoke truth)! Those who are acquainted with the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, know that they are calculated, from their solemn character, particularly in rites of death and sickness, to make a powerful impression upon the mind; but how much more must it affect the enthusiast? We do not agree with *The Times*, in their observation,—that this miracle is a proof of the barbarous state of Ireland,—the very metropolis in which we now write, can furnish innumerable instances of equally "barbarous" superstition;—the fact is, it is not confined to any class or country; but under certain weaknesses of the nervous system, may affect alike the philosopher and the barbarian. *The Times* used the expression for the best; but like the people to which he alluded, he often speaks enthusiastically—knowing that he is right in the main. We shall shortly lay before our readers, Dr. Crampton's able Pamphlet on Hohenlohe's miracles; and we promise those who delight to see truth exalted above superstition and bigotry a mental treat in that little work.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

(*Continued,*)

Cameron, *the* Water-taster.

In the name of the north and the honor of old Scotland is this fellow a *Cameron?* And has the name which is associated with deeds of glory and the might of auld lang syne, dwindled into a *filthy water*-taster?—Forbid it St. Andrew! There are many Scotchmen who would go to great lengths to gain, as Burns says, "the glorious privilege of being independent," but we are sure there is not one of them, however necessitous, that would so far forget himself or his country, as to stick his name up in the high-ways of London, a taster of * * * * *! A Cameron! We could sooner believe in the miracles of his brother quack Hohenlohe than in such a slanderous assumption.

This humbugger of the *first water*, began his career in the following manner: he took a back parlour in a street leading from Oxford-street, conjoined with a quack artist, a profile maker; or, as Dibdin says, by the mouth of Oxberry, "*one as paints them ere ladies' faces black,*" and to do the thing as economically as possible, they procured a boy to hold a large wooden placard at the corner of their street; the one half dedicated to the *arts* and the other to the *sciences* of medicine; Doctor Cameron upon one side, and a black side face upon the other. Thus these worthy labourers in * * * * and profiles, shared bed and *board!* Business succeeded with Cameron, and he soon dissolved partnership with the artist, took two rooms and set up six independent placards. The plan was a good one as far as swindling may be termed good, because numbers of people believe even now, that physicians do not pay sufficient attention to the point of practice which Cameron professes, and also that every disease may be cured by observing it. Out of these if he only got one patient in five hundred, he might calculate upon a good income. Many came to him, but never came again, for he dosed them with such strong diuretics that they—we dare swear—found their kidneys at last unable to perform their healthy functions; and calculous concretions, stranguary, and stricture, made them miserably remember their first visit to Cameron. We shall now relate an anecdote, the truth of which we have not the least doubt of, from the respectability of the name that signs the letter in which it has been conveyed to us; and it is one case out of the many to prove the truth of the above remarks: Mr. ———, who keeps the —— Inn, Holborn, was induced to apply to Cameron for relief, for which however he applied in vain. Pills and powders he got but *no relief.*

He was out of pocket by his folly three guineas, and at the end of a month was obliged to call in a surgeon in the middle of the night, to pass the catheter, and thus save his life. The surgeon declared he had brought on *suppression* by stimulating diuretics; and on examining the pills of which he took, found they were composed of turpentine and calomel! The patient's original complaint was a pain in the breast, which was still as bad as ever; and he got another disease now by his own imprudence. He was soon restored by proper attention; and he resolved to play the *water-taster* a trick: for this purpose he instructed his ostler—a shrewed, dry, and humourous little Derbyshire man, who, accompanied by his stable helper, an able bodied fellow, proceeded to the "Doctor's" house in order to consult him. A solid single carter-like knock announced their arrival, to the *patient* expecting Cameron, who seated himself *instanter* in his elbow chair, and shoved into a corner the pipe and pint, from which he had been culling his comforts. The door of his "study" opened, and the little ostler, backed by his helper, stood bowing, hat in hand, before "the Cameron." "Well my lads, what can I do for ye?" "Why zur Master—of Holborn recommended me to see you, for he says as how that you might do summot for our poor sick creater." "Very well, very well—is this he?" "Noa zur, he bees lying at hoame and cant git up." "Well, well, have you brought the water?" "Ees zur I have; an here it be;" the ostler now produced from his pocket a quart bottle full and gave it to the "Doctor," who gravely began to look through it, smell it, and taste it; while the lookers on were put in jeopardy by the inclination they felt to laugh out; however they managed to stifle it. At length the grave gentleman turned round to them, and shaking his head said, "Ah he *is* ill indeed: but my friend I see I can cure him." A loud slap upon the leathern breeches of both the visiters announced to the "Doctor" the pleasing hopes of a fee. "Bodikins! but I wouldn't moind foive shillin to cure him—dash'd if I would." Pleased with the effect the sagacious Cameron proceeded to display; and as a necessary preliminary asked many questions. "How old is he?"—"Twenty-four."—"Does he work hard?"—"Ees zur; carries very heavy loads"—(a pause—Um—"he has hurt his back"—(here he shook the bottle and again tasted its contents,) "yes I see he has hurt his back—Does he drink hard?" "Why zur I takes him a pail o water twoice a day." "A pail of water!"—"Eh let me see, (looks at the bottle again,) ay I thought there was *rather* much here—how is his appetite?" "Very bad zur—I gaed him a mash last night." "Mash! what the devil; do you think he's a horse?" "Noa zur he's not a horse—he's our donkey!" "Get out of my house you rascal," bellowed the enraged "Doctor," as he chased the little ostler about the parlour, who now got behind his colossal assistant, and as well might Cameron pierce the shield of Ajax, as make an impression upon him; so he contented himself with snatching up the bottle, opening the window, and dashing it into the street. He continued to abuse the visiters in the most violent manner, at which they only affected surprise, and coolly retired! observing dryly that "master tould them as how, that if he could not cure the beast, he would gee us summot to put him out o' the way." This anecdote is a fact—we have taken the trouble to convince ourselves of its veracity by speaking to both the master of the inn, the ostler, and his helper.

Old Nicholas Culpeper, who was himself a consummate Quack, having taken to the astrological branch of the business and succeeded in establishing a great reputation, for curing by plants and divination, exposes his brethren in the *water line*, by telling the following facetious story:—"None should have just occasion to say of us astrologers that we do as Physicians' vulgar practice is, when they judge of * * * *; pump what they can out of the Querent, and then judge by his words; of which I will rehearse you one merry story, and so I will conclude the book:—A woman whose husband had bruised himself, took the

water and away to the Doctor trots she: the doctor takes the water and shakes it about.—'How long hath this party been ill.' (saith he.) 'Sir,' (saith the woman) 'he hath been ill these two days.'—This is a man's (quoth the Doctor presently)—this he learned by the word it; then looking on the water he spied blood in it. 'The man hath had a bruise,' (saith he.) 'Ay indeed (saith the woman) my husband fell down a pair of stairs backward:'—then the doctor knew well enough that what came first to danger must needs be his back and shoulders—said the bruize lay there. The woman admired the doctor's skill, and told him, that if he could tell her one thing more, she would account him the ablest physician in Europe: 'well, what was that?' How many stairs her husband fell down? This was a hard question indeed—able to puzzle a stronger brain than Mr. Doctor had. To pumping goes he; and having taken the vessel and given it a shake or two, enquires where about she lived; and knowing well the place; and that the houses thereabouts were but low built houses, made answer (after another view of the water for fashion's sake) that probably he might fall down seven or eight stairs. 'Ah (quoth the woman) now I see you know nothing—my husband fell down *thirty*.' 'Thirty!' (quoth the doctor, and snatching up the vessel) 'is here *all* the water' (saith he.) 'No (saith the woman) I spilt some of it in putting it in.' 'Look you there, (quoth the doctor,) there were all the other stairs spilt.'

Cameron, as he calls himself, appeared on the town in 1809, and to the disgrace of English common sense, has gone on gulling for fourteen years—absolutely swindling; for what man in his senses can say that a fellow capable of thus publishing his filthy ways to the world, and standing the grin and gaze of the crowd, could have ever even stood behind a druggist's counter? We know that no human intellect, however learned, or however experienced, can tell a patient's disease by *his* disgusting mode of pretension; the inference then is, that he uses such pretence to impose upon the credulous—is not that swindling? Independent of the money, can a poor patient be more severely injured than by such a pretender:—his health, which no money can restore, when too far gone, is half ruined, and he is left not even the satisfaction of punishing his destroyer; for the law is unhappily deficient in this point. The secretion of the kidneys, in many diseases, particularly febrile and inflammatory, serves as a good indication *when assisted by others*, such as the pulse, the tongue, the skin, the countenance, the appetite, the state of the bowels, &c.; but to say that any man could come bolt at the disease, by merely seeing, smelling, or as the subject of our memoir does, by *tasting* it, is nonsense. There are a variety of changes in the appearance of that fluid depending upon diet, which changes, people are in the habit of observing; hence they fancy that a medical man may see at once in it their diseases and cure:—*no such thing, it is impossible*—let our readers consider our advice: we have no object but the true benefit of the public at heart, upon *their* interest we build the success of our publication, and when we give any advice that is no the result of that research, into the most learned and profound opinions of our profession, which we consider it a duty to accomplish, when we screen hypocrisy in men, even of regular science more than in impudent pretenders, we hope the patronage of that public we profess to serve, will for ever quit us.

—

PROPORTION OF SPIRIT CONTAINED IN MALT LIQUOR

The following statement, relative to the proportion of spirit contained in malt liquor, is made by Mr. Brande:—

Burton ale, 9 parts
Edinboro' ale, 7 in 100.
Dorchester ale, 8.
Small Beer, 2
London porter (average) 5.

—

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

To remove an inflammatory pustule, commonly called a *stye*, from the eyelid, by touching it with nine sharp thorns of a gooseberry bush.

If this ever cures, it is by either opening altogether the pustule, or irritating it at one particular point, so that its suppuration is facilitated.

These affections are immediately removed by being punctured with a needle or lancet.

—

To remove deafness by putting a clove of garlic into the ear at night.

This remedy is useful when deafness arises from a want of the proper secretion in the ear, and perhaps in cases of hardened wax--but in deafness arising from internal defect it is no use.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS

Application to a Burn or Scald after the first three or four days.

Powder of prepared chalk finely levigated, sprinkle this upon the surface, and dress it with simple lard spread thinly upon the smooth side of lint.

A good Worm Powder for Children.

Compound powder of scammony a scruple, calomel three grains, mix and divide into three parts. One of these to be taken every fourth morning.—This is for children between the ages of six and twelve: for younger, divide into five or six parts for older, into two parts.

—

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MEDICUS *has obliged us by his letter: We knew that Eady was tried at the Old Bailey, but did not think it necessary to go so far in our* "shew-up."

We have received Mr. Ward's letter from Nottingham, about the new instrument, and shall make use of it in our next.

With regard to the "light stiff bandages applied to the legs," if the malformation has existed since birth, bandages are of no use—if from rickets or other disease, they may be tried; but the pressure should be regulated by a surgeon—frictions with the hand, and soap liniment, in the latter case, should be used between every re-application of the bandages.

If A. Z. will convince us of the truth about Bevil, the Magistrate, we shall be perfectly willing to introduce *his worship.*

To MRS. JOHNSON, *the Child-poisoner, we say*—"by and bye." *We are examining the "Soothing Syrup."*

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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NEWLY INVENTED STOMACH SYRINGE.

We now give a plate of the new instrument deprived of its pump tube and valve. In this form its action is that of a syringe, and its construction is simple yet ingenious. By means of the longitudinal pipe attached to it, for the purpose of admitting the air below, the action of withdrawing the forcing rod of the syringe is performed without sucking up the fluid which it may have just discharged, by which contrivance any quantity of fluid may be injected. The description which we have given of the instrument in our last number will apply to this. We promised to consider the application of this syringe and pump to disease, which we shall now proceed to do. The pump is useful in all cases of poison, but more particularly in vegetable poisons; for as they do not act by destroying the coats of the stomach, but by being slowly taken up into the blood, a longer time is necessary to put the patient out of all hope than in cases of mineral poison. It removes in a moment all the fluid from the stomach. Mr. Ward, who performed the operation at Nottingham, informs us of its entire success: the following is an extract from his letter—"The success of the application was as complete as possible: the woman had taken twelve drachms of laudanum—she was in the family way, and within six weeks of her time; but in thirty-six hours after the operation, she came down stairs, and resumed her usual occupations." We have performed the operation upon ourselves, and found no difficulty in either introducing the instrument, or in removing the fluid. Its use in cases of mineral poison, is more limited; but we think, notwithstanding the general opinion of the faculty of its inutility in *such cases*, that it may often succeed in saving life, and shall endeavour to demonstrate that opinion. There are many cases where emetics and other remedies, when immediately applied, have succeeded in saving from mineral poison; this being admitted, we will prove that the stomach pump and syringe (which we think is the best name for it) if used *immediately* surpasses all other antidotes. Let the poison be instantly diluted largely, then introduce the pipe, and withdraw it: screw off the pump valve and pipe, and inject—*without once withdrawing the instrument*—as much as the stomach will hold of common water, and *then* withdraw it,: this can be continued as long as may be thought necessary. Another great use in the instrument is, in cases where the person who has taken poison will no open his mouth to swallow an antidote, here the jaws may be forced open, the body held down, and the pipe introduced in spite of the intended suicide, and so introduce or extract it as may be necessary. In cases where persons swallow a large quantity of spirit—as fatally occurred to an unfortunate girl in Blackfriars' road some time ago, the stomach will not vomit, —here it will decidedly save the life. It might perhaps be useful in case of extreme loss of appetite, by injecting soda water; for the fluid can be driven with great force from the end of the tube through several small holes; and this action would clear the inner coat of the stomach of mucous, as well as stimulate it, and convey a large portion of carbonic acid gas into it. But the disease to which it may be of benefit, the most to be desired, *and which we fervently hope it may*, is Hydrophobia. We merely give the idea for others to improve upon; but that improvement cannot take place without cases occur. There are, however, at this moment, *nine patients* in Bartholomew's Hospital, who have been bitten by a mad dog, but have no symptoms of hydrophobia. Should, however, any of them be attacked with this dreadful affliction, we suggest to surgeons in charge of them, the *introduction of water into the stomach by this instrument*, at the same time *blindfolding the patient*, and *keeping from him the idea of what is doing*. Dr. Majendie's paper upon this experiment has been published, and it strengthens our idea upon this application of the instrument. As the subject requires ample consideration, we defer further remarks upon it until next week, when we shall treat of it at large.

We before stated that this *most valuable* instrument was invented by Mr. Reed. We have since been applied to by Mr. Juke, surgeon, to state to the public that he is the real inventor, and had the idea two years before Mr. Reed. We have received no satisfactory proofs, however, of this assertion, and we have this strong assumption to weigh against it; namely, that had Mr. Juke (a *surgeon*) such an instrument as this *two years* ago, *it appears very odd that he did not make it known before.* Sir Astley Cooper performed the operation *with Mr. Reed's.* Why not get a patient? Mr. Reed got one as soon as he invented it.

—

PARTICULAR HEADACHES.

PLETHORIC.

When a plethoric person either indulges too freely in eating or drinking, and neglects to keep the bowels regular, headache of a most violent character is often the consequence; so violent that not even the most active treatment will overcome it for several days. If the disease yield not to the simple remedy laid down in our last number, in treating of headaches in general, it may then be considered as fully established, and the following mode must be resorted to immediately. The patient must commence by taking half an ounce of *Epsom salts* dissolved in a cup of *senna tea;* or thirty grains of *jalap* and five of *calomel,* divided into two powders, one of the powders to be taken two hours before the other. When this purgative operates well, the legs are to be bathed in warm water, and the patient put to bed, with the head elevated: no food whatever to be given, except fluid, such as thin gruel. Immediately after bathing the feet (provided the purgative has ceased to operate) give three grains of *antimonial powder.* Should the operation of the purgative not yet have ceased, omit this last medicine. It must now be observed to put two small blisters either on the side near the temples, or behind the ears, first having shaved a sufficient space for their application: if the pain is more in the front, the blisters should be near the temples, and if the pain extends towards the back part of the head, then let them be applied behind the ears. The head should be washed with vinegar and spirits. There is scarcely a doubt of this plan relieving, in a great degree, where the disease happens in full plethoric people; and to keep up the good effects, the patient should remain in bed, live on liquids, keep the bowels open, and observe quiet, for several days. Bleeding previous to the application of the blisters will assist, but should the patient object to this, strong and almost incessant purging should be substituted.

*** We shall next consider *nervous headaches.*

—

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

CONVULSIONS.

From the importance which is attached to that frequent and fatal disease termed convulsions, we feel it our duty to dwell upon it, in order to give all the consideration which it so justly deserves. We therefore defer our opinions upon that species of the disease which is the most common until our next number, and in the meantime, we shall observe upon a less frequent class o that disorder —convulsions in new-born infants. The causes of it are either from pressure upon the head in birth, from a fright which the mother may have received during pregnancy, or from too much susceptibility in the nervous system, on being suddenly exposed to cold. The treatment of this disease is very simple. Let the infant be spunged all over with hot brandy, free the mouth from any fluid contained therein, administer a tea spoon full or two of senna tea, almost thickened with sugar, give an injection of a wine glass full of warm water, with a little oil, and wrap up the infant in unwoven cotton, or such like warm substance; a little blood may also be taken with advantage in the beginning. This is all that should be done, except perhaps a warm bath; but if this is used (and it may be used if the other remedies fail) then especial care should be taken to have the infant dried instantly, and wrapped up warmly after the bath. It is a species of convulsions from which a recovery cannot often be expected.

HORRORS AT THE FEMALES' TREAD-MILL.

To serve as notes of reference for our future articles against that abomination, *the females' tread-mill*, we extract the following:—

Opinion of Dr. John Mason Good, F.R.S. upon the Tread-mill: extracted from Sir J. C. Hippesley's (Bart.) book on Prison Labour: published by Nichol, Cleveland Row, 1823.

"The prisoner is deprived of all the healthful advantage of athletic exercise, must be fatigued from the outset, and perpetually *in danger* of cramp, breaking the Achilles tendon, and forming aneurismal and varicose swellings in the legs; and if females were to be worked at the wheel, the same common cause of irksome and distressing exertions operating on the loins, and many of the abdominal muscles, *must* of *necessity*, in various instances, accelerate the period of menstruation; and even where it does not force it forward before its proper time, render it excessive, and lay a foundation for many of the most serious chronic maladies with which the female structure can be afflicted.*

"In Cold Bath Fields' prison itself, I found upon close inquiry, that the prisoners frequently complained of stiffness and numbness in their hands, of pains in their loins and in their legs, and that they were thrown into a profuse perspiration, and so completely exhausted, as to induce them to drink largely of cold water, as soon as the fifteen minutes were completed, although it is calculated that this up-hill exercise does not exceed the average of *two miles in six hours*; evidently proving that it is the *nature* of the labour—its *quality* and not its quantity. In respect to the anticipated complaints of females, it was at length candidly acknowledged that those most likely to take place, had already occurred in various instances, *even in the presence of the male keepers.*"

Speaking of Mr. Webb's report to Mr. Peel, in which that Surgeon states his opinion that, "he never in any one instance knew any ill effects." Dr. Good wisely remarks:—"but I have too great an opinion of Mr. Webb's integrity, from an acquaintance of many years, to conceive, for a moment, that he had any intention to mislead; and indeed the brevity and modesty with which the report is drawn up, shows evidently that his mind was not decided upon the subject at the time."

"I inspected the men as they descended, in rotation, from the wheel, at the end of the quarter of an hour's task-work. Every one of them was perspiring; some in a dripping sweat. On asking them separately, and at a distance from each other, where was the chief stress of the labour, they stated in succession, and without the least variation, that they suffered great pain in the calf of the leg, and in the hams.

"The palms of the hands in consequence of holding tight to the rail, were in every instance hardened, in many horny, in some blistered and discharging water." [Here is a labour for poor weak females! If it existed in either France or Ireland, where popular feeling is as sudden as it is often just, parliamentary interference would not be thus *coolly* waited for, but those perverse and unnatural Magistrates—those ignorant and unfeeling Surgeons, and the inquisitionary prisons themselves, would share in one ruin by the pardonable fury of the people.]

"The return of the Dorchester House of Correction, is signed with the distinguished name of W. M. Pitt, and declares candidly and without reserve, that the female prisoners notwithstanding they had at that time been employed at the tread-mill for only about five months, 'have occasionally been subjected to *certain complaints, which the Surgeon*

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* See our remarks upon the females' tread-mill, contained in our first number; which were written before we had the pleasure of perusing Sir John's able work.

* We have received a communication which will throw *some light* upon this Surgeon's statement;—and perhaps a gleam or two upon the certificates of some of those crouching and sweeping-opinioned Apothecaries, (we were going to say Doctors,) who have so *learnedly* declared in favour of their dictatorial masters—the Magistrates'—opinion of the tread-mill, in opposition to Dr. Good, a Physician of mature science, and deliberate judgment.

of the jail has attributed to the working at the wheel."

These are a few of the remarks of Dr. Good, which amongst many others which our limits will not permit us to copy, have been laid by Sir John Cox Hippesley, before Mr. Secretary Peel, yet the delays are of necessity so great, that months elapse without any positive relief being granted to the poor suffering women! So hard-hearted, so perverse, and so disposed, by the tyrannic bias of the human heart, to govern with an iron rod, are some of our Magistrates, that a poor woman with her infant sucking at the breast, was sent to Guildford Tread-Mill; and that notwithstanding the inhuman act having been noticed in all the newspapers—*another poor mother—with her infant*—was committed by the same Magistrate!* The temerity of ignorant power! Why should not such an abuser of humanity and national character, be instantly dismissed?

"In our second number we called upon the public journals to exert themselves in opposing the practice of sending females to the tread-mill, and we are happy to find we have not called in vain. The *John Bull* has returned to the contest (the most virtuous, by the bye, that paper ever was engaged in) and we heartily wish that the other Journals would join in the attack. It is the laudable undertaking of hunting a monster from the community, and should be one common cause with all parties. The following is extracted from the paper above mentioned.—

"No explanation* having appeared in answer to letters which have been inserted in the daily papers, on the subject of a woman in Guildford House of Correction, who was said to be working on the tread-mill in that prison, having a child to nourish, in her arms, we hope to call public attention to the following facts, which as men and Englishmen no power on earth shall induce us to conceal.

"*Five weeks since* a woman was sent to the Cold Bath Fields' tread-mill for being disorderly—she never had been in prison before. On the third day of labour she *dropped off the wheel in a fainting fit—the fall seemed to recover her*—her shrieks were agonizing—Mr. Bevill, and several other magistrates, were in the yard at the time, and left it immediately after the accident, *without making any enquiry.*

"The woman was carried to the infirmary—*and there remained till her discharge*, last week.

"Two women above fifty years of age are now at work on the wheel, with orders that they be worked as much as young women.

"Two women have been on the wheel who have had *twelve children* each—one named Smith, the other Kelly—the latter, after treading for *three months*, is removed to the wash-house department.

"Each woman is on the wheel eighteen minutes, and off eighteen minutes—they work from nine tillone, and from two till four, in winter, and till half-past five in summer.

"They complain of pains and aching in the limbs and loins, and of cramp in bed at night—they are also subject to swimmings in the head—the perspiration *in this weather is profuse!*

"We find at Brixton that there have been mothers on the wheel, as one is described to have been at Guildford, whose case appeared in the papers; a very short time was allowed for the mother to nourish the child, and if the poor innocent cried in the bitterest manner for its wretched parent, she was unable to go to it, till her time on the wheel had expired, let its cries be as cutting and as piteous as they might; at Cold Bath Fields, mothers nursing, not only have extra allowance, but are *not compelled to work.*

"We call upon the nation to stop this unnatural, un-English punishment; we relate facts, because we fondly love our country, and would wipe such a stigma from its reputation.

"Mrs. Fry, accompanied by a lady of the name of Steele, has visited Cold Bath Fields, and *tried the labour of*

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* See our third and fourth number.

† An explanation appeared in the last number of the Medical Adviser

the tread-mill—this is as it should be—bring home the punishment to the personal feelings, and see the result—that lady declared it *must be injurious to females, and disgraceful to put them to it.*

"As Mrs. Fry is one of the warmest *improvers* of prison discipline, we repeat her words as highly important.

"As to natural work for women in prison, we know that at Clerkenwell, where the women worked at their needles, *four hundred shirts* were made by *thirty women* per week; they received a penny or three halfpence per-shirt—what was the consequence? They worked steadily and assiduously, and only complained when one had more work given her (as a favour) than another.

"As for the moral operation of the mill, it makes women sulky, sullen and vindictive—it destroys the feelings of their nature; and as a proof of the injury it does, the women who first go to the mill as being disorderly, return, after their discharge, as felons, and again as disorderly. —It is a rare thing for them to be *absent three weeks*, after having once been set to work. Jane Matthews, for instance, was re-committed five times in twelve months—indeed there s scarcely a strange face in charge

"So much for the moral operation c the thing; for we think it cannot be alleged that the frequent return to it *proves the lightness of the punishment*—it is all abominable, and we will never rest till we have emancipated females from the dreadful toil."

We refer our readers to a letter signed JUVENIS in the same paper for eloquent and powerful moral arguments against this punishment of females. We regret that when the writer used the following words, "what may be the baneful effects of this injudicious system on the comparatively slight texture of the female frame, I cannot estimate," he had not our professional demonstration of those effects published in our first number, as well as the opinions of Dr. Good; we then should have had concentrated in one of the most able and manly appeals incontrovertible physical arguments with the most powerful moral.

If our statement of the peculiar evils arising to females at the tread-mill, which we laid down in our first number, be true (and where is the surgeon who can say it is not?) and if the enlightened and able Dr. Good's opinions are to be relied upon (and who is the surgeon that can pretend to superior claims of credence?) then does it not become a question, how far the upholders of the punishment are responsible—either the surgeons of those jails are ignorant, or compromise their honour and truth to the committees; or else the committees themselves act in opposition to their medical officers? In the last case, they are as responsible for their conduct as a commanding officer in the army or navy would be if he continued the punishment of flogging after the surgeon said it would be improper. But how are magistrates acting thus to be punished? Who is to support the unhappy sufferer to gain redress? Such a power should be only controlled by the acts of the legislature: and we hope it will be so ere long.

—

MOTHERS GIVING SUCK AT GUILDFORD TREAD WHEEL.

"Lo! woman stretched, disfigured on the wheel."

SIR,

IN the 2d No. of your work I stated that at the time I addressed you "*There were toiling at Guildford Tread Wheel, two Mothers giving suck, their infants each no more than three months old, who, from the diminution of the mothers milk, produced by the exhausting nature of their labour, were in a state of Starvation, which, combined with exposure to the cold, caused them to be incessantly crying!*" As the correspondent in your last (4th No.) who signs himself M. expresses humane feelings, I am less disposed than I should otherwise be to castigate him for making such a mockery of a plea in mitigation of my accusation as he has done.

He first avers that *the result* of personal enquiry, caused, as he *pretends*, by my letter, has been SATIS-

FACTORY to him, and yet goes on to allow that "it is *unhappily* true that two women were at the period in question (but not now*) toiling at the Tread Wheel." He then adds "but only for a limited number of hours." Now, Sir, his last statement leaves us as much in the dark as ever; why did not M., who well knew the number of hours, inform the Public what that number was. The trickery of this manœuvre is a downright insult to the Public. All the males and females at all the wheels in the kingdom tread "only for a limited number of hours." The reason, Sir, that M. was guilty of this disingenuousness is, that these mothers were sentenced to the *same* quantity of labour as the other females! no distinction was made in their favour in the warrant of committal, and no distinction had been made (for in strict law no distinction could be made) up to the period of the visit about the result of which *M. would have the world think otherwise than the fact.*

He next allows that "one of the mothers had an infant as young as was stated," but "the other one" (not the other mother as the grammar implies) "was much older." The word *much* is here unfaithfully used; *both infants appeared to be about three months old*, and their mothers described them to be "*about three months old!*" a few days either way, or even two or three weeks, does not alter the enormity one tittle, nor impeach the description in any respect, except for the want of a minuteness or detail on one immaterial part of the case, which minuteness was totally incompetent to aggravate or mitigate the matter of accusation. He proceeds, "neither infant had suffered from the causes which were stated, but on the contrary were in good health, and were amply provided for through the benevolence of the governor's wife." I now tell M. distinctly that *both infants had suffered from the causes which were stated;*—viz. from hunger and cold; that the milk of both the mothers was diminished by the labour; that the infants appeared the very reverse of being in good health: that they were pining and crying and cold, at the period of the visit: and that they were described by the mothers and other treaders to be almost all day long in that state. With such things before one's eyes, and such assurances in one's ears, the only wonder is, that a tale should be told in so *unvarnished* a manner as that to which M. so inconclusively replies.

It is perfectly compatible with all that has been alledged, to allow for kindness on the part of the governor's wife towards these mothers and their infants; she might supply some food for the children, but she did not, and perhaps felt that she might not supply sufficient nutriment to the mothers—if any *nutriment* could be *sufficient* to counteract the tendency of their toil to diminish the supply of milk.

Now, what opportunities, or conveniences, have mothers, under the circumstances of these unfortunate victims of *magisterial idiotcy or callousness*, to bring up babes of "*about* three months old" by hand? I repeat it again, that *the infants were crying and pining at the time of the visit, from hunger and cold, and were described to be frequently crying and pining from the same causes.* M.'s letter is evidently a defence of the governor of Guildford gaol — else what need of its asserting the humanity of his better-half *as a reply* to a charge of inhumanity in certain magistrates, who dispensed a punishment which all the world will allow to be *a thousand-fold beyond the deserts of their* VICTIMS—a punishment the recital of which has made men's blood run cold, and their teeth gnash with indignation; and which should instantly bring down official as well as public retribution on the heads of its miserable inflictors. No language is adequate to the task of depicting in its true colours the anti-social and barbarous enormity of which the magistrates who committed *mothers giving suck* to the tread-wheel have been guilty. There is

* Simple because their period of imprisonment had expired.

much negative, if not positive, proof in M.'s letter that it emanates from Guildford gaol itself. What, Sir, could induce you to say that you inserted it "without comment on the quarter from whence it came," I know not; but knowing what I do of the regulations of that gaol; knowing that no person can be admitted to view it without being *accompanied* by a magistrate, or introduced by the governor, it strikes me that were M. a stranger to the gaol he would of necessity, and for the corroboration of his statement, bring forward the testimony of his introducers; that he is not a magistrate himself is discoverable in every line of his letter, and in the whole mode of his arguing. To crown my suspicions, I may be allowed to state that *there are persons connected with the gaol who are opposed to the Tread Wheel discipline.* M. will now see that the writer of this is more behind the scenes than he had the least suspicion of when answering his first letter. M's letter being distinctly a defence of the governor of the gaol, would not have been noticed by me, but that it involved in his exculpation a partial and unwarranted impeachment of statements, which thereby lost much of their value. This was occasioned by descending to improper and shuffling artifices, for the sake of carrying a point which was not brought on the carpet, and if it had been, might have been carried infinitely better without them. As M. however seems to possess much of humanity, I trust his aberration from plain and above board dealing, was only an exception to his general rule of conduct, and I believe it was owing to an *interestedness* it was very natural to feel, but very foolish to betray.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

ACADEMICUS.

FEMALE BEAUTY.

[*continued.*]

PROFESSOR Blumenbach of Gottingen, whose profound science and perfect impartiality no one can doubt, does not hesitate to say that the English are the most beautiful people on the globe. Nor is this wonderful, when we consider that England perhaps, exclusively, presents the combination of those circumstances which are essentially favourable to beauty. In English women, moreover, beauty, from the softness of its forms, the fairness of the skin, &c. has a character peculiarly feminine. In France the most beautiful women are those about Marseilles, Avignon, and throughout the greater part of Provence, which was formerly peopled by a Greek colony from Phocis. The graceful, yet somewhat theatrical ease of the Parisian women, is well known. The women of the southern countries of Europe are brunettes with sparkling eyes, and warm complexions. Beauty is by no means general among the women of Italy, yet in many parts of that country women of extraordinary beauty are to be seen, and among some of them that quality is said to reach the highest perfection. The most beautiful women of Spain are said to be found in the neighbourhood of Cadiz, and those of Portugal in the town of Guimanarez. In speaking of the women of Greece, we may first notice those of antiquity. Beauty in that country was unrivalled. The women who possessed it in the highest degree were absolutely adored. A very unfavourable account however, of the beauty of the women of Greece, has been given by De Pauw. We quote his opinions:—"It is a circumstance equally remarkable and surprising, that while the territory of Athens abounded with men whose corporeal faculties discovered the highest degree of perfection, no age or situation ever produced women there that were celebrated for beauty. Negligence in dress, unsupported by any natural graces, would have weakened, if not totally destroyed, those charms, which were necessary to unite the sexes. With a view of correcting abuses of that nature, a singular magistracy was established at Athens, to superintend the dress of the women, and to constrain them to appear decently. The rigour of this tribunal was ex-

treme: it imposed a fine of one thousand drachms on those who neglected to adorn their hair, or discovered carelessness in their clothing; and the names of such persons were afterwards exposed on tables to public view. Thus the infamy attending the transgression, exceeded even the enormity of the penalty; for women whose names had appeared in this catalogue were lost for ever in the opinion of the Greeks. This severity, instead of being useful, produced an evil entirely unforeseen. To avoid such disgraceful censure, every species of ruinous luxury was introduced; and the women, adopting the most extravagant modes, carried particularly the use of paints to an excess hitherto unexampled among civilized nations. It became, in fact, a perfect disguise, and confounded in public places, the most profligate courtezan with the respectable matron, as Xenophon has exemplified in his Economica. The eyebrows and eyelashes were blackened by different procedures, and the cheeks and lips coloured with the juice of a plant, called *lythospernum tinctorum* by botanists, which communicates a carnation paler than carmine. On all occasions of ceremony, a coat of white lead covered every face and breast, without distinction, unless in time of mourning; and rules of exemption even then were not always respected, as appears by the pleadings of Lysias.

"Never did a more marked difference exist among all the varieties of the human species than between the women of Attica, and those of Tchercassia. The pure complexions of the latter owed nothing to art; and in the market of Caffa in Crimea they had to undergo many trials in the presence of purchasers, to prove that their charms proceeded alone from the beauty of nature. The learned have always imagined, that the women of Attica had no other view in the cruel mode they had adopted of squeezing up their bodies, than that of rectifying the shape; but on considering the practices of those Greek merchants, called Andrapodocapeloi, we are led to suppose some more particular object. It was observed that all female slaves, destined by them for the rich and voluptuous, had their hips compressed with knots of cord and bandages.

"Several naturalists are of opinion, that in the southern parts of Greece, the islands of the Archipelago and Asia Minor, the women are subject to uncommon effusions. Indeed the greatest anatomist of our age has discovered that this singularity affected even the very configuration of the bones, as appeared by a skeleton he had received from the Levant.* Many individuals of these countries would have escaped excruciating pains in child bearing, had not the construction of their robes augmented the danger of bringing forth as well as that of being born. Yet all such attempts must have availed nothing: for when a certain peculiarity, proceeding from the nature of climate, affects the human frame, we may be assured that its influence is unchangeable. Galen says that in his time it was necessary to circumcise the women of Egypt, and the same necessity still exists there; neither have tumours in the neck become less frequent among the inhabitants of the Alps, in the course of twenty centuries.

"The virgins of Athens could never have supported the torments inflicted on them under the pretence of correcting their organization, had not care been taken to diminish the necessary effects of the nutritive juices. Dioscorides assures us, that not only the sad precaution of frequent fastings, but likewise astringent and ferruginous powders, were employed to prevent the bosom from growing too large, in consequence of the excessive compression of the waist.

"These details are sufficient to prove that all was artifice and constraint with the women of Athens, while the men issued from the hands

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* Camper, Solution d'un Probleme par la Société Litteraire de Rotterdam.

of nature endowed with all the graces, such as Autolycus has been represented by Xenophon. Plato describes Charmis like a star in the firmament surrounded constantly by a crowd of admirers; while the name of Demus, the son of Pyrilampus, was inscribed on the porticos of the town, and the façades of the houses, to transmit to posterity the fame of such an accomplished mortal.

"Lucian, either expressing his own sentiments under a feigned name, or communicating in reality those of another person, gives us to understand, that the astonishing profusion of medicines, of paints and cosmetics, employed in replacing the defects of nature, became truly disgusting. Such excesses in drugs of every kind produced a sort of universal mask, at once tiresome to beholders, and fatal to sentiment. Terence has expressed his uniformity of air and countenance by a happy word borrowed from Menander:

—Deleo omnes dehinc ex animo mulieres;
Tœdit quotidi anarum harum formarum.

"These women were equally extravagant in every thing that belonged to dress; and instead of augmenting their charms, they contrived to eclipse them entirely:—'you never suppose,' said a philosopher, 'that the great lustre of rubies and emeralds worn about the neck, destroys even the vivacity of your eyes. So much is required to make you less lovely; while mount Hymettus and the thickets of Diacri abound in flowers, which, formed into graceful garlands and crowns by the hands of the Shepherds, occasion little trouble, and are presented with pleasure.

"Some modern travellers have been induced by curiosity to visit the islands of the Archipelago in search of that perfection of female beauty, supposed to exist where Grecian blood was purer than on the continent. Instead of finding at Samos and Crete such mortals as Laïs or Phryne, they saw to their surprise that the women there were totally neglected by nature; and without even regularity of features, they appeared much inferior to the daughters of the north, in elegance of shape and brilliance of complexion."

Such is the account of De Pauw—a paradox of the most absurd kind; for wherever men are beautiful it is impossible that women can be ugly: and assuredly the writer who some centuries hence, should describe the English women of the present day from our Comedies and Satires, or even from our homilies, would give as false an account of them.

*** We shall continue this subject in our next number.

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THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. I.

In the following article, we present our readers the first of a series upon the Public Hospital lectures, professors, &c. of Paris and Montpellier. They will contain much interesting information upon what at present is but little known. Pupils in Physic and Surgery, as well as those designed for the profession, will find them useful, and they may not be unacceptable to the profession at large, as well as the public in general.

THERE exists in France eighteen or twenty colleges of medicine, that receive every year a certain number of Doctors; but those of Paris and Montpellier have always a marked pre-eminence, from the talent of their professors, the number of their pupils, and the dignity of their examinations. The greatest part of the secondary universities are somewhat like our Scotch Colleges of St. Andrews and Aberdeen, with far less circumspection, for they confer the degree of Doctor upon candidates the most ignorant; and not unfrequently send their diplomas by post, without ever having examined the parties. The same abuse, yet far more arbitrary, attends the reception of surgeons, except in Paris, and two or three other great towns.

The Academy of Surgery, instituted by La Peyronie and Marechal, honours the useful work of its member who reckon amongst them illustrious names which our English Surgery would be proud of.

The revolution however, disordered all scientific companies and suppressed the universities. Anarchy, the most complete, took place of the ancient organization: those that had well studied their art, were confounded with half learned members, and with others still less, obtaining equal dignities. Proof of knowledge was no more wanting. The Quacks overrun with impunity all the departments—both town and country—distributing their injurious drugs. Several distinguished physicians, jealous of their proper dignity, concurred in the project of rescuing the healing art from the abandoned and deplorable situation in which it languished. At their solicitation, in the third year of the republic, the national convention issued a decree to erect three schools of health—one at Paris, the other at Montpellier, and the third at Strasburgh. In this new organization was executed the project of De Fourcroy—that of uniting the two branches of the art under one standard.

The school of health of Paris was established in that fine edifice now occupied by the academy of Surgery. The Cordeliers' Convent, famous for Jacobinical sciences, was converted into an hospital (*L'hospice de perfectionnement*) destined to receive the most extraordinary cases of disease: and there it was they proposed to try, by experiment, every new mode of treatment which was likely to improve their knowledge. They ordered the erection of several dissecting rooms, to each of which was attached a demonstrator, to direct the students and to repeat the lessons of the professors. Upon the requisition of the latter the hospitals were obliged to furnish a certain number of bodies designed for the course of Anatomy.

The decree of the national convention named twelve professors for the school of Paris, having each their deputy, a director, an inspector, a demonstrator in chief, a conservator of the museum, a design-painter, a wax-moulder &c. &c. The foundation principle of government, in establishing the three schools of health, was the Medical education of the national students, called les Eléves de la Patrie. Each department of France sent to this school a certain number of young men, from the age of seventeen to twenty-six, to receive the benefit of gratuitous instruction. They had three hundred in the school of Paris; which were divided into three classes, according to their degrees of advancement. To insure the assidnity of the national students, each professor ordered the roll to be called thrice in every ten days, and whoever was found absent three times in ten, was reported to the commission of public instruction. In order to observe their progress, they were assembled at the end of every course to which they had attended. Three questions were proposed to them, and the professor exacted their answers in writing, which should be given in, read, and terminated in one hour and a half; and thereby he judged of their improvement or idleness. There was also a general examination every year of all the students; prizes were distributed to the most deserving; and those with whom the professors were not satisfied were sent back to their homes to be replaced by others.

(To be continued.)

Proposal to remove the Knife from the Stomach of the Man who swallowed it at Carlisle.

We propose to the ingenious to improve upon our idea of inventing an instrument to remove the knife from the stomach of the man who swallowed it at Carlisle, and who still labours under the inconvenience and danger of its presence in his stomach. It is a case worthy of the humane, to endeavour to relieve a fellow-creature who, if the knife be not extracted, must be destroyed. Were it not that our duties lead us to different pursuits, we should seek to have the instrument we propose developed by an artist, and would not hesitate to go down to Carlisle to use it. However, we conceive that by publishing our ideas upon it, we give a fair chance to the accomplishment of our wishes,

in the cause of humanity, although a less weight to our interest. We do it cheerfully, and we hope men of more able powers will as cheerfully take up the idea. We shall put our proposal in the form of a mere question:—Cannot an instrument be made of whalebone, to act like a forceps—somewhat of the shape of a curling-tongs, only hollow or intersected with teeth, at the edges of the inferior end? And could this not be introduced down the œsophagus to lay hold of the knife, and gently remove it?—We will gladly receive communications upon this important point.

* We trust the leading Editors of the Journals will diffuse the question.

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CORDIAL FOR WEAK STOMACHS.

TAKE of carraway seeds, cardamomum seeds, cochineal—of each in powder *one drachm;* cinnamon bark bruised *two drachms;* Peruvian bark *half a drachm;* raisins (stoned) *two ounces;* proof spirit *one pint:* macerate for fourteen days, and filter through bibulous paper.

This cordial should be used sparingly—a liqueur glass full taken in the middle of the day, before dinner, is good, where nervous weakness is present, particularly by females. In cases of loss of appetite this cordial, added in the same dose, as above stated, to the *tonic* infusion, page 44, (about a wine glass full) will be found serviceable—first having regulated the bowels. The time to take it, in this form, is about eleven o'cloek in the morning.

Should it not be convenient to make the cordial as we preseribe it, the best substitute is the compound tineture of eardamomums.

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EXTRAORDINARY PRACTICE AT THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

As too much publicity cannot be given to the following statement we lend our mite: it is copied from the Examiner.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

29, *Brompton Crescent, Dec.* 21, 1823.

SIR,—I beg leave, through the medium of your widely circulating paper, to request the sense of the public, and your own opinion, on a practice pursued by the General Committee of the Foundling Hospital, and which has lately been a subject of correspondence between the Secretary of that Institution and myself. As it is my determination to make the particular case which occasioned that correspondence the subject of discussion in the highest quarters, I shall confine myself at present to a simple statement of the practice above alluded to—namely, 1st, That the Chairman of the General Committee is at *perfect liberty* to put *the most revolting questions* to the unfortunate female petitioning for her child's admission into the Hospital, before a board consisting of from twenty to six-and-twenty gentlemen.

2ndly, That it is an avowed rule of the institution not to reconsider the claim of any petitioner who, from disgust, or any other motive, may quit the committee-room, however distressing the circumstances of her case may be.

The effect of this practice *has been* in the particular case before mentioned (and consequently, it is to be feared, in many others) the withholding from a most deserving object the relief provided for her by the charitable supporters of the institution, and the probable consignment to penury and despair, perhaps even to guilt and its terrible consequences, every female who still possesses sufficient delicacy and feeling to shrink from a public examination of so cruel and filthy a nature.

Allow me to add, that I shall be most happy to give or to receive any information on this subject, personally, at my own house, or at that of any individual who may feel interested in its agitation.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

R. J. PLANCHE.

—

USEFUL OBSERVATIONS ON MIXING AND USING MEDICINES.

MEDICINES exhibited in the fluid form, operate sooner, and with more certainty, than in the solid state; but in choosing the vehicle or solvent, the taste of the patient ought not to

be overlooked. Some cases require a slow operation of the medicine prescribed, therefore the solid state is to be preferred. For those to whom peppermint-water is not disagreeable, the nauseous taste of sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts) is more completely concealed by that vehicle than any other. If cinchona (the bark) in powder be prescribed the patient may cover its taste effectually by milk, provided the medicine be taken *the moment it is mixed.* Aloes, the most nauseous article of the materia medica, if necessary to administer in a fluid form, a solution of extract of liquorice renders it by no means unpalatable. Medicines, which when given alone, produce griping, require the addition of aromatics to correct that quality, and, when they operate with violence, mucilages and demulcents are sometimes necessary to counteract their acrimony, or narcotics to moderate their action. In using purgatives, it is necessary to consider the particular part of the alimentary canal on which they more immediately act: thus rhubarb acts chiefly on the lower orifice of the stomach and the first intestine—the duodenum; for which reason it is given most frequently in weakness of the stomach and indigestion. Calomel, jalap, and the other drastic purgatives, act upon the whole of the intestines, but more particularly the great one—the colon: therefore in obstinate costiveness from torpidity, these medicines are best. Aloes operate upon the last intestine—the rectum; for which reason it is employed with great benefit by females at their climactric, and when labouring under certain obstructions. Ordering medicines in a compound form has the advantage of producing two or more effects at one time. Thus the same dose may be required in cholic, for example, to allay pain, and to open the bowels; or, in fever, to produce perspiration, excite sleep, and allay irritation. But in combining medicine, care must be taken not to bring together incompatibles, a caution that is mostly neglected in the quack medicines, and eminently so in that deleterious compound called Mrs. Johnson's *soothing* syrup—a mixture that lays the foundation of disease in nine cases out of ten of those infants whose deluded parents inflict upon them this semi-poison. It should be remembered that certain medicines, when united, decompose each other, or chemically combine, and, consequently, entirely alter the remedy upon which the intention relies, unless this effect is intended: thus it may not only be rendered inert, but injurious: for instance, when calomel is taken, it not should be combined with an acid—that is, suppose a patient swallows a calomel pill, and then washes it down with a glass of strong lemonade, the effect of the medicine is made injurious—violent griping is produced. When calomel is combined in the form of a pill, with soap, which was a frequent way of prescribing it formerly, the medicine is rendered inert or nearly so, by the mixture of the alkali of the latter with the acid of the former. Acids and alkalies are incompatible, unless the neutral salt be the remedy required: astringent vegetable infusions and decoctions destroy the emetic and diaphoretic property of tartarite of antimony (common tartar emetic.) Hence it will appear evident, that too much caution cannot be observed in compounding prescriptions, and we therefore recommend our non-medical readers, whenever they wish to get our prescriptions made up, to copy *carefully* every *letter* which we lay down, or cut the prescription out; and also to have it compounded by a careful and competent person.

A WORD ON A LATE "SINGULAR OPERATION."

THE papers have all copied the details of an operation said to be performed by Mr. White, surgeon, and all have attached "*singular*" and "*wonderful*" to it. The case is a mere puff which has been imposed upon the editors. The probang was passed into the stomach, and on drawing it out, the halfpenny came with it! What is all this? There is no operation more simple than passing the probang; a pupil of a week can do it, and with

regard to the extracting of the halfpenny, that was merely a fortunate *accident*: for Mr. White intended to push *it down*, if he intended as every other surgeon would in using the probang. The case is simply this: the instrument was pushed down the œsophagus into the stomach, while the halfpenny remained jammed at one side of the pharynx at the bottom of the tongue, and in withdrawing the probang its end disengaged the halfpenny! The two things *wonderful* in this operation, are, first, that the halfpenny was not pushed into the stomach, there to remain, and, being copper, injure its coats,—for it very likely could not pass the *pyloris;* and 2dly, that Mr. White did not prefer an emetic.

—

CAUTION TO PAREGORIC TAKERS.

THIS medicine has killed many a child, and perhaps many a grown person. With all ignorant pretenders and nurses it is a favourite, wherever there is a cough and straightness of the chest. There is no medicine so abused: the common people send for it as they would for milk, whenever they catch cold. It is a useful medicine in its proper place. The following directions should be observed to regulate the use of it:—whenever cough is attended with oppression of breathing, pain, thirst or headache, or in people of *full plethoric habit of body* it should never be used; but when the cough has remained some time, and all symptoms of pain abated, it may be used: also in chronic asthmas. Its effect is to tranquilise the system, when labouring under irritation: and in coughs attending young or delicate females, and of weak habit, it is beneficial. The dose is from one drachm to three, and the best way to take it, is in a glass of hot lemonade, occasionally at night.

—

OPIUM EATING.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

MY case may be interesting to you, and to the public, for which I beg to present it to your valuable publication. I have early in life accustomed myself to the eating of opium, and so necessary is it to my existence at present, that I feel I should suffer death were I to be deprived of it. I have often tried to abandon it, convinced of its pernicious effects, but alas! the torture of the want!—description could not paint my feelings. I now take, daily, the almost incredible quantity of two drachms; never less than ten grains at a dose!* From your ingenious mode of directing your observations, I am flattered with the hope of your pointing me out an antidote to this unfortunate practice.

I am, Sir, L. T.

—

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

—

JORDANS, *the "Rakasiri" humbuggers.*

After Cameron's *waters*, naturally enough, come the *Jordans*. We are always in a merry strain when we sit down to analyze the rognery of those artful schemers, the quacks: we are unconsciously reminded of Liston; there is so much gravity of exterior with so much laugh inside. One would think to see these two fellows, standing at their door with their hands in their pockets, their hair powdered, their sleek countenance and suit of black, that they really were medical men; although to a discerning eye a peculiarly roguish cunning, and an expression of innate ignorance, are labels on their front. Except Lynch, there are not such wholesale humbuggers in London. The robberies which their poisonous Rakasiri has committed on the public has elevated them to notice. Who has not seen them in Cheapside perched up on the top of a machine with four wheels, which *they* call a chaise? Their heads appear some feet above the line of carts, carriages, and caravans; frequently jammed in the centre of all, and suffering the infliction of passing ridicule—all to act the Doctor! We never thus behold them but our fancy involuntarily caricatures them—we fancy their seat the *back of an*

* In reply to this letter, we say that we shall shortly give an article on the effects of opium.

hypochondriac; their foot-board a *grave-stone:* their wheels a compilation of *human bones;* their chariot-rim decked with *diseased livers;* their reins *the intestinal canal*; their side-lamps *two bottles of Rakasiri;* and their whip a *long bill!* with which the two *black longtailed horses* most awfully harmonize.

How did they come by this machine? Would they have bought it, amiable readers? No; their vanity and cunning, if their purse permitted, would have furnished them with a more *doctor*-like article. It is of little consequence, nor should *we* have mentioned the thing, but that it is connected with a most important feature in the characters of these *gentlemen;* viz. They attended a coachmaker once in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy Square, and by the dint of Rakasiri helped to put him prematurely into the gazette, and afterwards into the grave. Seeing the poor man declining in circumstances, these heartless quacks sent him a most enormous bill, which he could not pay; an execution followed, and the big gig was the produce!

We have at this moment before us a bundle of letters about these impudent impostors, which would excite the strongest sympathy for the deluded victims of their presumption and roguery; but our limits will only permit us to select one for this number, which, however, will suffice for the present to shew them in their true light:—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Gloucester, Dec. 26, 1823.

Sir,—I have had the pleasure of reading one of your numbers of the Medical Adviser, and feel great satisfaction in the reviewal of quackeries: I have a case to recommend to your notice. On the 26th of February, 1822, Dr. Jordan visited Gloucester, and gave advice at the King's Head Inn: feeling myself very unwell, having had for many years a bad state of health, I embraced the opportunity of visiting him, and by his persuasion, purchased five family bottles of this Balm of Rakasiri, which cost me £8 5*s.* I opened one of the bottles, and used but little of it before I found myself grow worse, and through the bad effects of the medicine I thought I should have lost my life, but I recovered, and wrote to Mr. Jordan to know if he would take the medicine again, either sent to London, or to his agent, Mr. Walker, in Gloucester, as I had called upon Mr. Walker, and he would not take it except it came immediately from Mr. Jordan himself. I wrote sixteen or seventeen letters to Jordan, three I paid the postage; one I sent to a friend in London to call upon him and converse with him about it, which he did, when he laughed at him, and told him that I must have some more. From his appearance, having a gig and livery servant, and his politeness, I took him to be an honest man and more of a gentleman, but he has proved a complete impostor. He told me many strange things. I shall mention a few the most remarkable. Every thing he said to me I will write to you if you require it. He told me the doctors in general knew nothing about consumptions. He said he firmly believed, by experience and observation, none ever knew what a consumption proceeded from, nor where it first begins upon the frame, so well as himself, adding that his medicine would make me a new man, and assured me I should enjoy in a very little time, as good a state of health as any in the most rural spot in the country. He told me one bottle more would be quite sufficient to make a sound cure of me. I saw many cures in the list in his bills, and I wrote to some of them to know the truth, if possible. To Charles Taylor, Bull Street, Birmingham, I wrote two letters, both of which returned, saying there was no such person in the neighbourhood; to J. Wilkinson, West Orchard, Coventry, and John Grant, Broad Mead, Bristol: these too have not yet returned yet, but I expect them, because the first was, I believe, nothing but a gag.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept of these few lines; and if you think it worthy of a place in your invaluable publication, do make the best of it. Be

very candid in your remarks, if you please; and if you want more information than I have here stated, I shall be ready to answer your request.

N. B. I shall be ready to bear testimony upon oath at any time the medicine cost me the above sum. I should like to have something for it, or else it should be at your pleasure; but do as seems best to yourself. Mr. Jordan was in Gloucester in November last, but privately; or if I had known it, I should have spent half a crown more upon him than I have. I hope I shall live to see him some day.

Your's most respectfully,
W—— P——s.

West Gate Street.

What is to be thought of these fellows after reading this letter? Good God! does it not prove the necessity of legislative interference? Here are two ignorant men, originally pencil sellers—itinerant pedlars—and in the face of our government, under the very eye of justice, permitted to wield the dangerous instrument of medicine! Such abuse loudly calls for a remedy. Why have not the members of parliament turned their attention to this point? Mr. Wilberforce has thought of the climbing boys—Mr. Brougham of the emancipation of slaves, and Mr. Martin of cattle—yet none have considered how many poor ignorant country people are destroyed and robbed by the quackeries of London.

From the quantity of anecdotes, &c. which we have received about those men, the Jordans, it would be a pity to say "*adieu*" so soon: we shall therefore resume them next Saturday, during which interval we leave them on the coals to fry, when we shall give them another *turn*, in the hopes of having them well *done*. Dr. Lynch, the *footman*, thus escapes for one week longer.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

PUTTING a piece of raw meat to the eye for the purpose of removing what is termed a black eye.

This remedy has no other power than the cold which it conveys: it is an unsightly application, and of little use, if any.

—

PUTTING the legs into the large intestine of a bullock to cure rheumatism.

It is only by the heat this acts:—it is a poultice which is pleasant while it lasts: but exposes the patient to a greater degree of re-action of cold. A warm bath is much better.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Bilious head ache pill.

Take of Antimonial powder, a scruple
——— Calomel, fifteen grains
——— Compound extract of Colocynth, one drachm.

Mix and divide them into 20 pills. Two should be taken at night, with a small dose of Epsom salts next morning.

—

A good Embrocation for pains in the Limbs or Joints.

Take a small quantity of Olive oil,
To this add about one fifth of its quantity of liquor of Ammonia.
Shake them up together.

—

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*We thank our * * of Finsbury Square for his excellent letter.*

Q. R. Should use our "antibilious pills," page 32.

How could such a case as Mary's expect relief so soon: let her try what a milk diet will do.

We request our readers in general who have it in their power, to furnish us with authentic anecdotes of any of the Quacks.

We are glad to see so good an effect from our Advice as N. S. states. Let him continue the plan.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's-court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

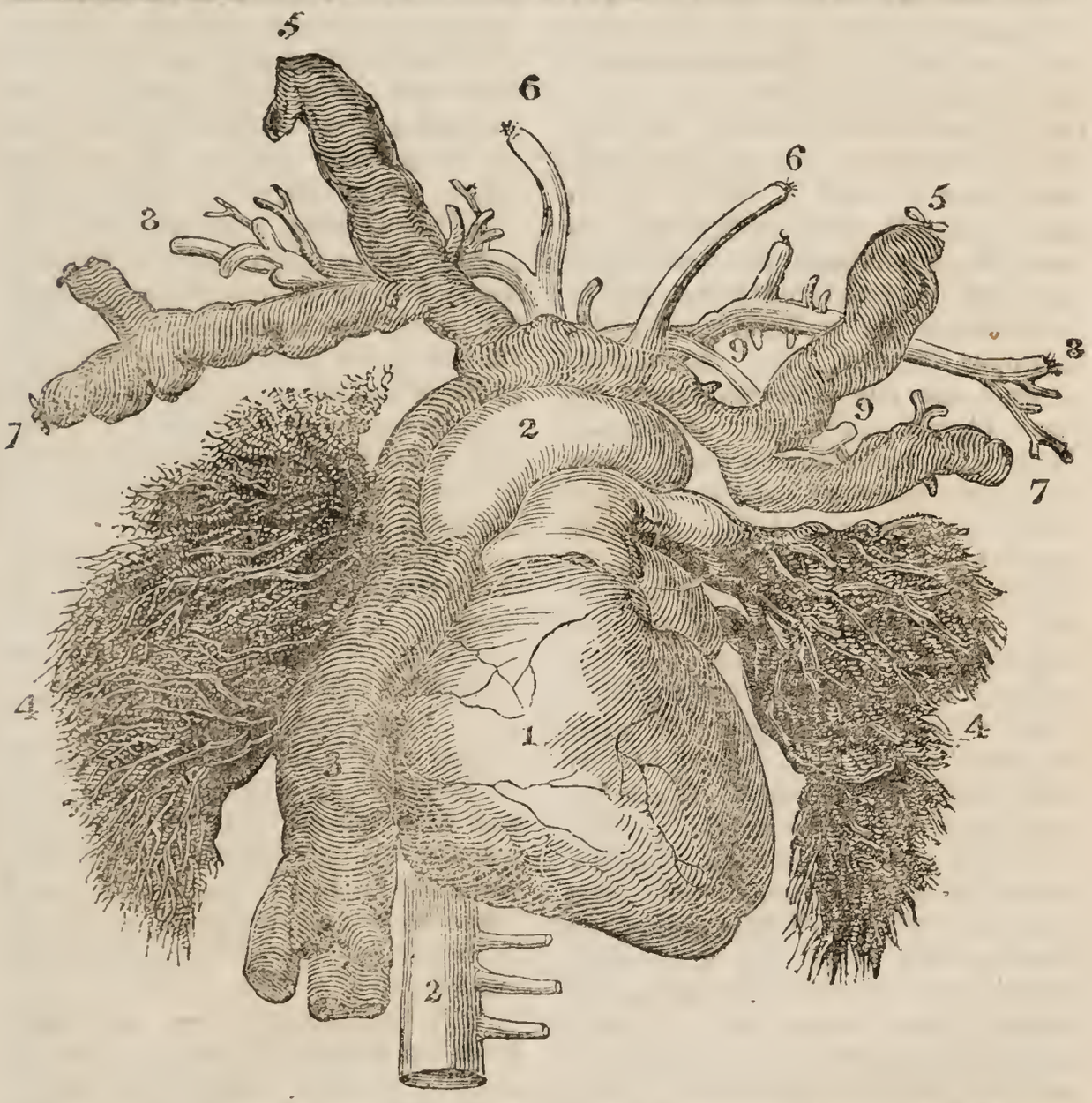
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 6.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1824. [Price 3*d*



Description of the Plate.—1. The Heart.—2. Aorta.—3. Vena Cava.—4. Lungs, deprived of Cellular Substance and Coat.—5. Internal Jugular Veins.—6. Carotids.—7. Subclavian Veins.—8. Subclavian Arteries.—9. Thoracic Duct.

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THE HEART, GREAT VESSELS, AND CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD.

So important a subject as the circulation of the blood cannot fail of being interesting to our general readers; we shall therefore lay before them a brief account of it, divested of that complication which renders it only intelligible to anatomists.

The heart, by the contraction of which the blood is circulated, has arising out of it, two great blood vessels, whose branches extend to all

parts of the body, accompanying each other throughout; the one is the great artery, the *aorta*, and the other the great vein, or *vena cava*. The heart has also two other great vessels arising from its other side, one called the great artery of the lungs, or *pulmonary artery*, the other, the great vein of the lungs, or *pulmonary vein*. Let us therefore keep in view that the heart has four large trunks communicating with it, and that at the junction of each with the heart, there are placed valves, most beautifully perfect, which act in such a manner as to admit the tide of blood through its own proper channel, in passing and repassing the heart and lungs, and to immediately fly up and prevent its improper return, like floodgates. Arteries are always accompanied by veins closely connected together—the arteries carrying the blood *from* the heart—the veins carrying it *back to it*. An artery is elastic, and can contract and dilate—a vein is an inactive flaccid tube. An artery has no valve in its whole course to the extremities of the body—a vein has valves placed at very short distances. These valves are to support the upper column of blood as it ascends from below back to the heart, flying up and acting as a floor to that portion of blood which is above it, and between the next valve and itself; thus every motion of our limbs moves the blood in *their veins*, and that motion can be no other than *upwards* on account of *those valves*, while the motion of the blood in the arteries is directly from the contraction of the heart, and it has a free current to the extreme parts of the body. With this general view in mind, let us proceed to describe the circulation.

The blood is sent out at one gush, or pulsation, throughout the whole body, into the most minute branches of the arteries; those arteries make a turn, and losing their elasticity, become veins, which grow large in proportion as they go towards the heart, and lie exactly in the course of their corresponding arteries. Into these veins the blood is therefore forced after having supplied the various secretions of the body. This blood is thus brought back by the great vein, or *vena cava*, and at its junction with the left jugular and subclavian vein it receives by a little tube (marked 9 in the plate) the white chyle or essence of the food brought by that tube from the stomach. The blood is then unfit for the arteries, and therefore is carried into one little cavity of the heart, and at one pulsation is driven by the pulmonary artery into the lungs, where, coming in contact with the air through their membranes, it absorbs oxygen from air breathed, which changes its colour from dark to bright red. The blood thus prepared for supporting life is taken back by the pulmonary veins into *the other* side of the heart, which communicates with the aorta, and by one pulsation is sent to all parts of the body, returning again as before through the veins; and this course takes place at every pulsation of that great and beautiful machine of the heart.

*** We shall return to this subject, shortly, describing the nature of the blood.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Symptomatic Convulsion.

As we have described that species of convulsions termed *inward fits*, and also convulsions of new-born infants, we now proceed to the more common forms of the disease, and those to which medical treatment is most frequently attended with success.

This complaint arises in infants from the following causes:—teething, the sudden striking inwards of an eruption or rash, from acrid matter irritating the intestinal canal, and from worms. From all these causes the effects, as regards the symptoms, are the same: the first step, therefore, is to remove the causes, and the best medicine to begin with, is that, which by its action, is equally applicable to all; that is—

Of Calomel two grains,
Of White Sugar, in powder, five or six grains. Mix.

This powder should be put into a spoon full of the child's food, and in six hours after it is taken, two table spoons full of senna tea

must be given. Should this, within a couple of hours after, produce a full evacuation of the bowels, it need not be repeated; but if it merely moves, as sometimes will be the case, the same dose should be given next day. By the full effect of this medicine a near judgment may be formed of the cause of the complaint, by the nurse's observation of the fæces, which if foul and unhealthy, or if worms pass, will indicate the necessity of repeating the above powder and senna tea, *even though the bowels are freely purged.* To assist the action of this medicine, an emolient injection *must* be administered; which may be made with about a gill of warm water and a little sweet oil. The injection must be frequently repeated—at least three times a day, before, as well as after the operation of the above medicine: indeed, in all stages, and in all species of the disease, it *should not be neglected*, for it tranquilizes as much as a warm bath. Nurses are particularly to observe this. It is a practice not sufficiently attended to of late years in this country; and here the French surpass us; for they rely upon injections, in most of the diseases of children, far more than they do upon internal medicine. But in the use of internal medicines, we must say, in justice to the English practice, that we leave them behind.

When the above medicines are given, or even while they are preparing, the infant must be put up to its neck in warm water, of about from 90 to 93 of Fahrenheit's thermometer, when it should remain with the nurse rubbing its breast, its belly, and its limbs, for at least three minutes, or perhaps four or five. It then should be wrapped up in a piece of calico, rubbed dry, covered in flannel, and put into a bed, previously warmed. The bath may be repeated in two or three hours after.

If this simple treatment produce no good effect, the disease is extremely dangerous; and, at this period, the best medical advice should be resorted to. Should this be not attainable, the following plan must be pursued. To each of the injections —which must be continued—add ten grains of gum asafœtida, by dissolving in water; and to dissolve it well, it should be rubbed with a little water in a mortar. Also continue the bath, and give two teaspoons full of the following mixture, every four hours—

Tincture of Hensbane, two drachms,
Tincture of Valerian, three drachms,
Cinnamon water, two ounces,
Mix, and add a little syrup.

If, after twenty-four hours, no appearances of abatement are evident, a blister should be applied to the back, and five drops of the *liquor of carbonate of potass*, in a teaspoonfull of water, given every ten minutes.

Where convulsions arise from the sudden drying up of a discharge, the return of it ought to be attempted, by blistering the part, and the blister should be kept open with *savin ointment*, spread on lint. If from teething, cutting the gum to admit the tooth to protrude will, in all probability, remove the disease.

Convulsions may arise immediately preceding the small pox, but this is rather a favourable symptom, and the child should have free cool air; which will be all that is necessary, except a laxative medicine—castor oil, or rhubarb and magnesia.

In convulsions arising from too much blood in the head; which may be seen by a peculiar throbbing of the arteries of the neck, redness of the face and eyes, with great heat—then, shaving the head and suffusing it with cold water, as well as the face, or applying ice to the head, is proper; but the water will do, and generally stops the paroxysm. Bleeding and a blister, in this case, will be of great benefit.

Let this be observed—that, from whatever cause convulsions arise, the treatment recommended above may be employed with advantage, except in convulsions from the cause last mentioned, *too much blood in the head:* and this species can only

be treated effectually by a practitioner. If there is paleness of face, and langnor of the eyes, this species cannot be present. Children are sometimes born with it, or predisposed to it, from the head being somewhat injured at birth: it is, however, not a very common species of convulsions.

DR. CRAMPTON'S PAMPHLET ON *Prince Hohenlohe's "Miracles."*

We now redeem our promise of laying before our readers, the able opinions of Dr. Crampton, upon the alledged miracles of Prince Hohenlohe; and we trust it will for ever set the question at rest—at least amongst all who are open to just and clear reasoning. Dr. Crampton has long been a lecturer upon Surgery, Anatomy, and Physiology, and a man whose industry in the pursuit of knowledge is only equalled by his sound judgment, and clear and comprehensive mind. The following is the excellent work complete.

An Attempt to explain, on Natural Principles, the Cures, alleged to be miraculous, of Miss Lalor and Mrs. Stuart, with an Appendix, containing cases and illustrations. By Philip Crampton, M. D. Surgeon General to the Forces, Surgeon Extraordinary to the King, &c. &c.

Prodigia eo anno multa nunciata sunt quæ quo magis credebant, simplices ac religiosi homines eo etiam plura nunciabantur. T. Livius Decad. 3 lib. iv.

The power of influencing, by human means, the fixed laws which regulate the universe, must ever be considered as the most incontrovertible proof of the Divine favour and protection towards those who are entrusted with the exercise of it. It is not, therefore, without reason, that the Roman Catholic Church has grounded a claim to the exclusive veneration of mankind, upon its power of working miracles. In the latter times, however, this power has rarely been exercised, and, indeed, but faintly asserted;* whether, this is to be attributed to the increasing faith of the people, which renders such manifestations of the Divine will unnecessary, or whether in an inquiring age, such appeals to the reason of mankind might be attended with danger, I do not pretend to decide, but this much, at least, is certain, that the revival on the part of the Roman Catholic priesthood, of a claim which seemed obsolete, by the putting forth a miracle "in the midst of ourselves," and in the beginning of the nineteenth century, has excited a feeling of surprise, not unmixed with regret, among all those who take an interest in the progress of the human mind.

The appearance, therefore, of a Pastoral Letter from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, "announcing, with great joy, a splendid miracle which the Almighty had wrought even in our own days, and in the midst of ourselves," excited a considerable sensation. I believe, however, that the predominant feeling, even among the well-informed Roman Catholics, partook somewhat of disappointment, when it was found that the "splendid miracle" resolved itself into this simple fact, that "Miss Lalor was restored to the perfect use of her speech, of which, for six years and five months, she had been totally deprived."

The Pastoral Letter of Dr. Doyle was soon followed by a much more important document, a Pastoral Letter from Dr. Murray, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, announcing the miraculous cure of a nun in the convent of Ranelagh, effected by the supernatural interference of the Divine Power, through the intercession of Prince Hohenlohe." This document derives its character of importance no less from the high respectability of the reverend person* who bears testimony as to its truth, than from the *apparent* authentication of the facts, by the signatures of professional men of the most unexceptionable character.

The disease under which Mrs. Stuart laboured, and which was the object of supernatural treatment, is

* Nor have miracles *altogether* ceased in the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Doyle's first Pastoral Letter.

* Dr. Murray.

not very clearly defined; according to Dr. Mills, "the complaint was generally of an apoplectic tendency;"* according to Dr. Cheyne, the lady "was described as being an ailing person, having laboured under determination of blood to the head, and various *nervous* affections of an anomalous character," &c. It appears, however, upon all hands, that up to the 31st of July, Mrs. Stuart was a great sufferer, and that, "on the 4th of August, that lady "assured her physicians that she was without complaint." "Her pulse, however, was 120."

This, although a brief, is, I believe, a fair representation of the facts of the case, and it is scarcely necessary to say, that it is one which would naturally give rise to a variety of opinion.

The subject has accordingly been discussed with great freedom, both in private societies, and in the public prints, and has been treated (according to the religious, or perhaps more frequently, to the political views of the parties,) with levity or with awe, with admiration or contempt—some clearly perceiving in this transaction "the finger of God" †—a proof "that the Almighty God had thus visited his people, re-animating their faith, and reviving their hope;"† they think "it is meet that in our times, signs and wonders should, in some degree, revive, because error has prevailed:" and that it is just, that the Lord should arise to guide *his own cause.*" ‡ Others, on the contrary, see nothing in the matter but that mixture of delusion and imposture § which conflicting sects have never failed to discover in the miracles of their opponents. A third description of reasoners, however, scorning all reference to "*natural principles*," freely admit the reality of the Miracles, but discover in them not "the finger of God," but of "the Devil," ‖ "to whom (it seems) the exertions of the Bible Society had given a most serious alarm;" "instead, therefore, as viewing them as, in any measure, a proof of the truth of the Roman Catholic Religion, they consider them as decisive evidence that the Church of Rome is the great apostacy, denominated the MAN OF SIN, or MYSTERY OF INIQUITY." And the pious author of the Letter to Dr. Doyle, assures his reverend correspondent, "that he has *great pleasure* in the Miracles, inasmuch as it is evidence that the Church from whence they proceed is the Mother of Harlots." To me, however, it appears that nothing can be more unreasonable, or more unjust, than this method of treating the subject, and with every disposition to attribute as much honesty of intention, and as much real piety, to the one party as to the other, I cannot help suspecting, that those who deny the reality of the Cures, and those who attribute them to supernatural interposition, whether of the GOOD or of the EVIL principle, are equally remote from the truth. I hope my Protestant friends will not take it amiss, that I should state my belief, which I do in perfect sincerity, that in the cases of Miss Lalor and Mrs. Stuart, there was neither delusion on the part of the patient, or dishonesty on the part of the priest. That the cures were effected I firmly believe, and that they were wrought (I will not say by the intercession) but by the influence of Prince Hohenlohe, I do not entertain a doubt; but, on the other hand, I must deprecate the wrath of the reverend persons, and of their friends, when I deny that there was any thing miraculous in the transactions. A reference to some of the first, the most simple, and the best established principles of the animal economy, will, I trust, place this matter in such a point of view, as will remove all obscurity with respect to the present cases, and perhaps prevent a recurrence to such questionable proofs of Divine interposition in future; nor can I think this a light matter, for, independent of the great importance of separating in philosophy "things natural from those which belong to religion,"* it

* Testimonials, No. 1. Do. No. 2.
† Dr Murray's Pastoral Letter.
‡ Dr. Doyle's ditto. ‡ Idem.
§ Warder and Evening Mail passim.
‖ Remarks on the late Miracles in a Letter to Dr. Doyle, printed by R. M. Tims.

The wiser sort pondered and doubted; folly,
Determined every thing, or swallow'd wholly
The *close* and *cunning*, foolishest of all
Fear'd that the whole was diabolical.
Chaucer's Squire's Tale, by Hunt.

* Lord Bacon's Essays.

is obvious that civil liberty can scarcely be secure, so long as the multitude are impressed with the notion, there are persons who are taken into the councils of the Almighty, who are

"——— Chosen from above
"To work exceeding miracles on earth."
SHAKSPEARE.

But to return to the medical view of the subject, with which alone I am concerned.

Much of the error that prevails upon the subject of diseases, and their remedies, depends on the notion so generally entertained by unprofessional persons, that the nerves and the imagination, and, consequently, "*nervous*" and "*imaginary*" diseases are synonymous terms; that diseases of this class have no existence but in the distempered fancies of the patients, or in some indescribable commotion of the "nervous influence;" and as it is a matter of common observation, that in such diseases there is a great subserviency to moral impression, it is concluded that the *body* is affected, but in a secondary way, and that the disease being in the mind, is more properly a subject for moral than for medical discipline. When such a disease therefore is cured by a strong mental excitement, the effect is considered as quite natural and simple; but a broad line is drawn between diseases of this class, and those in which there is a sensible derangement in the *functions* of the organs, or a tangible alteration in their *structure*: *here* they say is physical derangement; here the "*nerves*" (considered as synonymous with the imagination) having nothing to do with the matter.—Here a cure must be effected by *physical means*, and if those fail, relief must be sought from above.

But Anatomy suggests a very different view of the subject: from thence we learn, that the animal body consists of two distinct parts, namely, a part that *feels*, and a part that *moves*. The sentient part consists of the brain, spinal-marrow, and nerves, which, taken together, constitute what is called the nervous system. The moving parts consist of the muscles and the internal organs, as the heart, arteries, lungs, and, in short, all the organs (with the exception of the brain and nerves) which are subservient to the functions of life. But it can be proved, that the *moving parts* derive their power of feeling and of moving exclusively from the *nervous system*, because the dividing a nerve utterly deprives the part to which its branches are distributed, of sensation as well as motion; and it can be proved that the nervous system is equally affectable, or liable to be acted upon, by moral and by physical agency; because, an onion held to the nose, or a tender recollection passing across the mind, will equally affect the nerve which presides over the "fountain of tears;"† and fear, it is well known, is often more potent than fox-glove or squill. It follows then, that no limits can be assigned to the influence which the nerves, and through them the moral affections, or (to use the common expression) the imagination, may exercise on the animal economy in health and in disease ‡

But there are certain moral feelings which have a power not only to derange the *functions*, but to destroy the *structure* of certain organs; thus long protracted grief produces diseases of the liver, heart, and lungs; and the anatomist who examines the body which has sunk under the workings of a wounded spirit, will find the sentient embodied in the disorganized liver, the tuberculated lungs, or the flaccid and extenuated heart.§ Again, diseases of physical origin in the heart, liver, or lungs, excite the corresponding moral affections with which these organs are associated; thus a palpitating heart fills the bosom with vague terrors, and a torpid liver entails all the horrors of hypochondriasis.

The yellow bile that on your bosom floats,
Engenders all those melancholy thoughts,
DRYDEN.

is at least as good an authority in medicine as it is in poetry.

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* See Note A. Appendix.
† "O lachrymarum fons, tenero sacros
"Ducentium ortus ex animo." &c.
(Alcaic Fragment.)—GRAY'S LETTERS.
‡ See Note C. Appendix.
§ Note B. Appendix

That *all* diseases, therefore, are, when not *caused*, at least *maintained*, by the influence of the nervous system, can no longer be called in question.

Let us now examine what part the same system performs in effecting a cure.

It has been shewn that the action of every organ in the body may be increased, diminished, or discharged, according to the manner in which we deal with the nerves by which it is supplied; and it has been shewn, that the nerves being, as it were, the link which connects the moral and the physical part of our natures, may be equally influenced by moral or by physical agency, it follows then that if we but knew the appropriate moral agents, as well as we do the medical ones, and had them as perfectly under our command, the cure of any cureable disease might as certainly be effected by the one means as by the other. But, unfortunately, "the great passions" are but unmanageable medicines, and although some attempts have lately been made in Germany to introduce them into the Materia Medica,* I have not heard that in this country, James's Powder has been superseded by terror, opium by a prosing sermon, or Ether and Sal Volatile by good humour and wit.

It is necessary, however, to observe, that the disposition to be affected by moral and by physical influences is different in almost every individual, and varies even in the same individual at different times; and that almost invariably women are more susceptible to moral impressions than men: hence it is that women have ever been "the chosen vessels" for enthusiasm, and the most approved subjects for delusion.

"When priests (says the sagacious Selden) come into a family, they do as a man who would set fire to a house, he does not put his torch to the brick wall. but he thrusts it into the thatch,—*they work upon the women, but they let the men alone.*"

These general observations will, I trust, render it unnecessary for me to enter into a particular examination of the cases of Miss Maria Lalor, and Mrs. Mary Stuart. From the most attentive consideration which I have been able to give to the statements of the medical attendants, I can discover no evidence of any *change of structure* having been induced in either case by the long continued disorder of the nervous system; and so far the disease may (in the common acceptation of the term) be considered as purely "*nervous;*" * no stress, however, should be laid on this point further, than as it may serve to explain the *suddenness* of the cure; for had there been an inflammation to be allayed, or a tumour to be dispersed, these changes, being equally under the controul of the nervous system, might as certainly be affected by an appropriate mental impression, as by the most powerful sedatives or deobstruents, which the Materia Medica supplies.

This statement, however startling, admits of a satisfactory illustration:—

Inflammation (it is well known) consists chiefly in an undue determination of blood to the inflamed part in consequence of some irritation acting upon the nerves, *which regulate the actions of the vessels* which circulate the blood. Suppose the inflammation to be established in the face, and let us suppose that while at its height the patient were unexpectedly to witness some scene of horror which sent back the blood to his heart, can there be a doubt that so long as this feeling was maintained, and that the face was left pale and bloodless, the inflammation would be arrested, and that, too, more suddenly and more certainly than by taking away blood from the arm? Let us further suppose that the shock to the nervous system, which emptied the

* In a late German work, several cases of Epilepsy Mania, and other nervous affections, are reported to have been cured by letting the patients drop (when they least expected it) through a trap door, care being taken that they should be received safely on a feather-bed below. See Alberti Diss. de Therapeia Imaginaria von meschen die ans unbildung gesen werden. Hall, 1821.

* Testimonial No. 2

inflamed or turgid vessels was sufficient to subdue the accidental and temporary irritation which was the cause of the inflammation; then the cause, as well as the effect, being removed, the disease (*a local inflammation*) would be permanently cured by an almost momentary *mental impression*. In any other given case, we have only to suppose, that the immediate action of the mental impression upon the nerves, and through them upon the heart and arteries, is something different from, or opposite to, the morbid action (whatever that may be) which constitutes the disease, and we can readily conceive that if such a mental impression were maintained for a sufficient length of time, the disease might be cured. It is no answer to this statement to say, that many have sunk under the effects of a depressing passion, or, as it is commonly called, "a broken heart," in spite of the consolations of friendship, or of religion, or even of a cheering hope, derived from some favourable change in their circumstances; because, in the first place, the consolation (to take effect) must have reference not only to the nature and magnitude of the affliction, but to the state of mind and previous habits of thinking of the sufferer; and, in the second, the consolation, however sufficient, may arrive too late, an organic injury may have been inflicted which no human means can repair. The house that is levelled by a storm cannot be rebuilt by a calm. *

But still it may be asked, was the nature or force of the moral impression which was made on Miss Lalor and Mrs. Stuart at all commensurate with the effects which were produced. Now, although it would be but a *petitio principii* to affirm, that the impression was sufficient, since it produced the effect, still I think it may be conceded that it is difficult to conceive a situation better calculated to exalt the imagination, and to engross every faculty of the soul, than that of a young enthusiast, who, exhausted by long suffering, and hopeless of relief from all human means, throws herself on the Divine Mercy, and comes with an undoubting faith into the *very presence* of her God—she believes that, at *that instant*, her case is specially commended to his mercy, by one who has already found favour in his sight, who has already been the dispenser of his mercies upon earth; during the long service of the mass she feels that her fate is in suspense—she adds prayer to prayer—entreaty to entreaty; her strength increases with every effort—the Deity relents—she is the chosen object of his care—she sinks to the ground, overwhelmed by the force of her gratitude and her love. *

If such feelings be not sufficient to change the whole current of existence, they would (I should think) be to the full as likely to effect a favourable change in such a complaint as Mrs. Stuart's, as "bleeding from the arm, and leeches up the nose," and even "thirty peas on the crown of the head," and "five kidney-beans in the nape of the neck."

I do then most unaffectedly and ardently hope, for the sake of *true* religion, for the sake of science, and for the sake of that peace, which is never so much endangered as when the opinions of men are divided upon matters which concern them the least, that there may be an end to miracles—I mean to medical miracles—and if man in his presumption *will* enlist the Almighty in his quarrels, and call upon him to declare his side, and display his banner, let him at least demand some "sign and wonder" worthy of his name; and when "the arm of the Omnipotent *is* stretched forth," let us hope that it will appear, if not in a more worthy, at least in a less equivocal demonstration of power, than in restoring a young lady to her voice, or a hypochondriacal nun to the use of her limbs.

* It has been somewhere said, that before an affliction is digested, consolation comes too soon, and after it is digested, it comes too late, so that there is in fact scarcely a hair's breadth for the consoler to aim at.

APPENDIX.

Note A.

By cutting across the nerves which connect the stomach and lungs with

* See Mrs. Stuart's Affidavit.

the brain, we interrupt digestion and respiration, as certainly as by cutting across the nerves of the arm we can deprive that member of the power of feeling and of motion; upon the same principle the action of some of the most deadly poisons may be prevented by intercepting the nervous communication between the part to which the poison has been applied and the brain. Thus if the 8th pair of nerves, or those which pass from the brain to the stomach, be divided *below* the branches which supply the lungs, the effects of certain poisons which act *immediately* on the nervous system, without being absorbed into the blood, will scarcely be perceived. *

Note B.

(Page 7.) In what degree the Pathological principle stated above, bears upon the cases of Miss Lalor and Mrs. Stuart must for ever remain a matter of opinion; but I confess I was somewhat surprised to find the principle itself called in question by a person styling himself a "Surgeon" and a "Lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology." This gentleman calls upon me, in no very courteous terms, "*to give one well authenticated case in proof of my daring assertion*," that assertion being (as he states it himself) "that "there are certain moral feelings which "have a power not only to derange the "*functions*, but to destroy the *struc-* "*ture* of certain organs; thus long pro- "tracted grief produces diseases of the "liver, heart and lungs, and the ana- "tomist who examines the body which "has sunk under the workings of a "wounded spirit, will find the senti- "ments embodied in the disorganized "liver, the tuberculated lungs, and the "flaccid and extenuated heart." Now however determined I may be to avoid any thing like controversy, as this challenge relates to a matter of fact, and not of opinion, I do not feel myself at liberty to decline it, let it come from what quarter it may; I beg leave, therefore, to refer the Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology to the justly celebrated work of M. Portal on the Liver, where he will find the information which he requires. For the information of my unprofessional readers, I shall select a few cases from the 8th chapter, which is devoted to the examination of the "*State of the Liver after strong moral affections*," *De l'etat du Foie apres des vives affections morales.*

Obs. B.—A man after having experienced *many severe reverses in his fortune*, fell into a state of the deepest melancholy; he had an aversion to food and drink, his legs swelled, his body became emaciated, and he soon sunk under his sufferings. On examining the body, the liver was found *black, and as it were sphacelated.*

Obs. G.—M. Sorin, who was engaged in extensive speculations in corn, was sent to the Bastile by M. Turgot; while he was engaged in justifying himself against the crimes which were imputed to him, he supported his captivity with courage and force; but, as soon as he was released from prison, he began to experience a sense of general languor, indigestion, listlessness, and nervous affections, &c. He became emaciated, the region of the stomach became painful, the whites of his eyes became yellow, &c. and M. Portal discovered a swelling of the liver, which occupied the umbilical and epigastric regions, &c. M. Sorin sunk under the usual effects of liver disease; and, on examination after death, the liver was found to have acquired an immense volume—*it was altogether disorganized* in some parts, being converted into a substance as soft as brain, in others as hard as cartilage. Then follows the case of the celebrated Cardinal Rohan, to whom the affair of the necklace had nearly proved fatal, by the vexation, and consequent liver disease, which it induced, and then the more interesting one of M. Necker, "whose disease commenced from the moment that the affairs of the kingdom, over which he presided, took a turn so different from that which he had hoped." So much for the influence of the mind in pro-

* See the numerous observations on the division of the 8th pair of nerves, by Willis, Haighton, Dupuytrin, Brodie, Magendie, Wilson, Philip, &c.

Enfin il parait q' un petit nombre de ces poisons detruit la vie *en agissant sur les extremeties nerveuses.*—ORFILLA Tom. 2d, p. 82.

"There is reason to believe that the poisons which in these experiments were applied internally, produce their effects through the medium of the nervous system, without being absorbed into the circulation."

BRODIE PHILOS. TRANSACT. 1811

ducing "*disorganization of the liver*" Now with respect to the lungs: M. Portal in his work, 'Sur la Phthisie Pulmonaire,' enters at large into an examination of the nature of those derangements in the functions of the lungs, produced by long continued agitation of mind, and which terminate at length in alteration of their structure; he adds, "among the various alterations of structure which are found *in consumptive subjects of this class*, there is one which is common to every other species of consumption, namely, suppuration of the lungs; but there are others which are peculiar to it, such are indurations of a portion of the lungs, &c." And so much for the influence of the mind in producing "*Tuberculated Lungs*." With respect to the influence of the moral feelings in producing organic diseases of the heart, I hope the authority of M. Corvisart will be considered as sufficient. This distinguished physician and pathologist having stated in his preliminary discourse that the frequency of organic disease of the heart is to be attributed chiefly to the violent passions of men, proceeds to say, "to any one who doubts of the fatal organic changes produced in the heart by the influence of the moral feelings, it may be sufficient to state that in a sudden excess of rage the heart has actually burst!* and I am not the only physician who has found that organic lesions were much more frequent during the tremendous times of the revolution than in the ordinary calm of social order." (p. 12.) And, again, speaking of the causes of organic disease of the heart, "but of all the causes capable of producing organic diseases in general, and especially those of the heart, the *most powerful, beyond all doubt*, are the moral affections. The bloody scenes of the revolution, the dreadful spectacles which it presented, the destruction of fortunes, the terrors, the anxieties, the griefs that it entailed, have, in these latter times, furnished abundant proofs of the all-powerful influence of the moral affections in developing organic disease. How often have we seen in the hospital, persons once opulent, but now reduced to beggary, looking for a termination to their misfortunes in a speedy death, which, however, is but too long delayed by the slow progress of organic disease of the heart" (See p. 370.) And so much for the influence of the moral affections in producing disease of the heart. To illustrate the nature of the organic change, which the depressing passions induce in the heart, I select one case out of a great number of similar ones, from the valuable work of M. Corvisart.

Obs. 20.—A farrier, aged about forty-one, of a robust constitution, *experienced some severe afflictions, which, for a time, deprived him of the use of his reason:* he soon began to suffer from those symptoms which announce the formation of organic disease of the heart (here the symptoms are described at length;) he died on the day of admission into the hospital; then follows a detailed account of the appearances which were observed on opening the body; the heart was *soft, flaccid, and extenuated, molle et flasque et ses parois etaint amincies*, (p. 104.)

I trust that I have made out my case to the satisfaction of "The surgeon," both as to the "disorganized liver, the tuberculated lungs, and the flaccid and extenuated heart;" and I persuade myself that he will *feel* that by answering his appeal in this way, rather than by retorting charges of "ignorance and presumption," I have best consulted the interests of science, and the respect which is due from the members of a liberal profession towards each other.

Note C.

Perhaps the best illustration which can be given of the almost unbounded influence of the imagination over the functions of the animal economy, is supplied by the following interesting fact in natural history, which is re-

* Sir —— ——, sitting, after dinner, with some friends in Morrison's Hotel, Dawson-street, took up a newspaper, in which he saw the name of his own son among the list of the killed at the storming of Bergen-op-zoom; the paper fell from his hand, he sunk back in his chair, and in a moment he was no more.

I examined his body on the following day, and found a rent of nearly an inch in length in the right ventricle of the heart. The preparation is now in the Anatomical Museum of Trinity College, Dublin. A.

lated by Captain Franklin, in his "Journey to the Polar Sea:"—A young Chipewyan had separated from the rest of his band, for the purpose of trenching beaver, when his wife, who was his sole companion, and in her first pregnancy, was seized with the pains of labour. She died on the third day after she had given birth to a boy. The husband was inconsolable, and vowed in his anguish never to take another woman to wife; but his grief was soon in some degree absorbed in anxiety for the fate of his infant son. To preserve its life, he descended to the office of a nurse, so degrading in the eyes of a Chipewyan, as partaking of the duties of a woman; he swaddled it in soft moss, fed it with broth made from the flesh of deer, and to still its cries, applied it to his breast, praying earnestly to the Great Master of Life to assist his endeavours. *The force of the powerful passion by which he was actuated, produced the same effect in his case as it has done in some others which are recorded.* A flow of milk actually took place from his breast: he succeeded in rearing his child, taught him to be a hunter, and when he attained the age of manhood, chose him a wife from the tribe. Our informant (Mr. Wentzell) added, that he had often seen this Indian, and that his left breast, even then, retained the unusual size it had acquired in his occupation of nurse.—p. 157–8.

Here then is an instance, (and I shall presently show that is by no means a solitary one,) of a *sudden* and *total* change both of organization and of function, being effected in the animal economy—a change which, when we consider the circumstances under which it was wrought, and the effects which were produced, exhibits every property of a miracle, except the gratuitous one of its "*being performed in attestation of a truth.*" For it appears to be inconsistent with, and contrary to the usual constitution and course of things,—"a sensible deviation from the laws of nature,"—"an effect above human, or natural power." The fact can be explained only upon one of two suppositions—either "The Creator and Preserver of ALL Mankind," (by whatever name, or in whatever language he may be invoked,) *may* incline with EQUAL mercy to the fervent prayer of the naked savage, breathed from the depths of the desert in which he has been placed, and to the "*intercession*" of the princely Priest, offered up at the high altar, with all those rites and ceremonies which are thought to give such efficacy to prayer: Or, there is a principle in the animal economy *pre-established* by an all-wise and beneficent Creator, which, when called into action by an appropriate excitement, enables the male animal to perform one of the most peculiar and important functions of the female, without calling upon the Deity to manifest his power, by subverting any of those laws which he had himself established for the regulation of the universe. The Roman Catholic who holds that miracles are performed "only in attestation of a truth," and who affirms that, that truth is the doctrine and discipline of the Church of Rome, cannot adopt the first or miraculous explanation of the fact, for then he must be prepared to admit the truth of the Chipewyan religion; and if he adopts the second which refers it to natural causes, he cannot consistently be offended with those who would explain his lesser miracles upon a similar principle. But the truth is, that when the subject is viewed by the light of natural history, it loses the whole of its supernatural character, and subsides, or is exalted into an example of one of those wonderful provisions of nature by which (looking to a final cause) it would appear that every possible contingency which can endanger the existence of any species of animals is foreseen and provided against. Baron Humboldt, the coolest, the most cautious, and most accurate of travellers, bears testimony as to the occurrence of a precisely similar fact in South America:—

"In the village of Arenas," says that distinguished philosopher, "there lives a labourer, Francisco Lozano, who presented a physiological phenomenon, highly calculated to strike the imagination, though it is very

conformable to the known laws of organized nature. This man has suckled a child with his own milk. The mother having fallen sick, the father, to quiet the infant, took it into his bed, and pressed it to his bosom. Lozano, then thirty-two years of age, had never remarked, till that day, that he had milk: but the irritation of the nipple sucked by the child, caused the secretion of that liquid. The milk was thick and very sweet. The father astonished at the increased size of his breast, suckled his child two or three times a day, during five months. He drew on himself the attention of his neighbours; but he never thought, as he probably would have done in Europe, of deriving any advantage from the curiosity he excited. We saw the certificate which had been drawn up on the spot, to attest this remarkable fact, eye-witnesses of which are still living. They assured us, that, during this suckling, the child had no other nourishment than the milk of his father. Lozano, who was not at Arenas during our journey to the missions, came to us at Cumana. He was accompanied by his son, who was then thirteen years of age. M. Bonpland examined, with attention, the father's breast, and found it wrinkled like those of women who have given suck. He observed that the left breast in particular was much enlarged, which Lozano explained to us from the circumstance, that the two breasts did not furnish milk in the same abundance. Don Vencente, Emperan Governor of the Province, sent a circumstantial account of this phenomenon to Cadiz."

It is not a very uncommon circumstance to find both among human kind and animals, males whose breasts contain milk.* The ancients speak of the milk of the he-goats of Lemnos and Corsica, and Blumenback and Humboldt have seen, in Hanover, a he-goat, that, for a great number of years yielded more milk than a female goat.† Alexander Benedictus, an anatomist of Verona, relates the history of an inhabitant of Syria, who to calm the uneasiness of his child, after the sudden death of its mother, pressed it to his bosom, the milk immediately came in such abundance that the father could take on himself the nourishment of his child without assistance.* Other examples are related by Santorellus, Paria, and Robert Earl of Cork.†

The fact, therefore, cannot be disputed, and it admits of this simple explanation upon "*natural principles.*" The germ of a mammary, or milk secreting gland, exists in all male as well as female animals of the class mammalia; in man it is frequently in a state of active secretion at the periods of birth, and of puberty; and in some families and in some races of mankind, the breasts of the males are considerably developed, so as at least to equal those of the ordinary size in women. ‡ It is easy then to conceive that where the organ exists, its latent powers may be called into activity by an appropriate stimulus, which may be either a physical one, as in the case of the he-goats; or a moral one, as in the case of the Indian.

FEMALE BEAUTY.

(Continued.)

"It is not uncommon in the islands of the Archipelago, to see girls marriageable at ten years old; and when they have attained the age of fifteen or sixteen, they have scarcely any thing more to acequire in point of shape, strength, and all the attributes

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* Albanas Jeannides de mammarum structura, 1801, p. 6. Haller Element Physiol. tom. 7. p. 18.

† Blumenback Vergluch Anat. 1805, p. 504. Reil arch der Physiol. tom. 3, p. 449. Montegre Gazette de Sante.

* Maripetrus sacri ordinis Equestris tradidit syrum quendam cui filius mortua conjuge, superierat, ubera sæpius admovisse, ut tamen filii ragientis frustraret, continuatoque sub lacte manasse papilam; quo exinde nutritus est, *magno totius urbis miraculo*

Alex. Benedicte hum. Corp. Anatome, 1549, lib. 3 595.

† Miscel Acad. Nat. Cur. 1688, Philos. Trans. 1741, p. 810.

‡ My friend, Mr. Colles, assisted me in removing a breast of this kind, which had become the seat of a true cancer! The gentleman died some time afterwards from a return of the disease.

Among the signs of the pretended weakness of the native Americans, travellers have mentioned, the milk contained in the breasts of men; it has even been gravely asserted, that in a part of Brazil, it is the men, and not the women, who suckle the children. Clavigero Storia di Messico, tom. 4, p. 169.

of the most beautiful physical constitution.

"It is not astonishing that women, whom the nature of the climate causes to arrive sooner at a marriageable state, should have moral dispositions which agree with this physical precocity. Vivacity, transport even of feeling, accompany this forward adolescence of the senses. That devouring fire which endeavours to communicate itself externally, is very active among the women of Greece. They are very susceptible of the impressions of love. Tender and passionate, the object beloved is every thing in their eyes. To preserve it, no sacrifice is painful to them, and they are, in this way, real heroines."

In fact, the women of the Continent, and more especially of the islands of Greece, are extremely beautiful. It would indeed be astonishing if these descendants of the Greeks were not so, since the women of all their Colonies, as Naples, Sicily, &c., are still remarked for it. The large and expanded eye, was, perhaps, the most distinguishing feature of the Greeks; and it is still to be found among their descendants.

The women of TURKEY possess considerable beauty. They paint their eyebrows black, as did the Greeks. The women of ARABIA are not destitute of beauty in their youth; but they have the custom in common with many barbarous nations, of disfiguring themselves by rude outlines traced upon the skin—a custom which doubtless originated amongst those savages, who, being naked and without any other ornament, adopted this one. The women of the East are applauded for their beauty, by almost every traveller. Beloe assures us that there are no women there, even of the lowest class, who have not the fresh tint of the rose on a skin which is white, distended, smooth, and soft as velvet—a circumstance perhaps arising from their frequent use of the bath. The custom of the Mahometans of purchasing the most beautiful women they can find, has, doubtless, also contributed to their beauty. Hence the Persians, who were formerly a deformed race, have now become, especially in their great cities, as Ispahan, as beautiful as the Europeans.

The Tchercassians, Mingrelians, Kachemirians and Georgians are famed for their beauty. Hence in Turkey it is not permitted to Jews or to Christians to purchase these beautiful women: this is said more especially of the Kachemirians, who are reserved for the faithful. These women are brought as slaves to Constantinople, and there sold, while young, and hence scattered all over Turkey, in order to serve in the Harem, or produce children for their masters. From the account which has been given us of them by the female Christians of this country who have visited them, and from the small number of those whom the practice of physic has afforded us an opportunity to see, it appears that they have European features: almost all are fair, with dark hair: some have flaxen or light brown hair: all are finely proportioned when they are young; but they generally acquire, through repose, good living, and the frequent use of the bath, an em-bon-point which constitutes the delight of the Turks, and which nevertheless exceed the limits of beautiful proportion. Very beautiful women are to be found in India. Such are those of Lahore and Benares. These are said to be the most amorous of the women of India; and it is remarked that they prefer the white men of Europe to the natives of India. Although their complexion is a yellowish brown, the expression of their features is extremely soft, and possesses great vivacity; and their figure is elegantly and delicately formed. The yellow women of Golconda and of Vizapore, are still sought for in Asia.

The women of BARBARY, are many of them beautiful. Those of the mountains of the Atlas are sufficiently fair; but those who live in the towns, sheltered from the rays of the sun, are of a whiteness so pure, that they would eclipse the greater number of our European women.

The women of EGYPT are of short stature, but have large breasts: "In meroë *crasso majorem infante papillam*," says Juvenal. Among them an excessive em-bon-point is esteemed a great beauty; and, in order to effect it, they eat immoderately of the most nourishing food, live in a state of the

greatest indolence, and make excessive use of relaxing baths.

The NEGRESSES have also their beauty and their value. Some of them, when young, having a nose straight, or almost aquiline (though this is by no means necessary to Ethiopic beauty,) have also a figure which would not disgrace an European, the lips in many instances, projecting but slightly, the advancement of the cheeks being scarcely apparent, and the bosom being accurately placed.

The defects of female beauty next.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

JORDANS, *the "Rakasiri" Humbuggers.*

(Continued.)

WE now proceed to the history of these consummate quacks. They are Jews:—let it not, however, be supposed that we think they are, on *that account*, the worse; for we are of the class of unprejudiced thinkers who look upon the social compact of mankind, without reference to religious tenets; and we believe it is proved, in our preceding numbers, that there are as impudent rogues amongst the *Gentiles*, as amongst the Jews; for if that ignorant, low bred, audacious wall-chalker, Eady, were placed in the balance with the present subject of our demonstration, a feather might turn the scale on either side.

These Jordans then, were little Jew boys, who supported themselves, at a very early age, in a comparatively honest way to their subsequent health-plundering profession, by hawking pencils through Hampshire—whether leaded *quite* through, or merely at one or both ends, the Chronicles relate not—but this is of little consequence—the pencils were sold, and the "DOCTORS" JORDAN, were the sellers!

We confess there is nothing inelegant in the expression of "*Merchand des crayons*," which, *literally* translated, is *Merchant of pencils*: nor is there any thing revolting in its more just and vulgar meaning *pencil pedlar* or *pedlar of pencils*: but when we associate with it, the grave, the learned, and the respectable title of DOCTOR, it becomes a manifest example of ricketty taste and wondrous absurdity. But what will not the love of gain achieve? Money will make men—Jew or Gentile—mix up brickdust with jalap, ignorance with roguery, rum with "Rakasiri," and pedlars with physicians!—The proper name of these pretenders is *Levi*, which, as long as they continued in their original calling of pencil hawkers, harmonized—nay improved their interest—and was in fair keeping with their countenances and their conduct; but when they were bitten by the hydrophobiac jaws of *doctoring* and *money getting*, prudence suggested to them the propriety of anabaptism; so they dipped into *the Jordan*, and came forth besprinkled with their present cognomen! Now for their *medical* education.

In Cannon-street-road, within a few doors of the turnpike, stood a shop and parlour, then but recently vacated by a *mangle* and its industrious proprietor. This shop to these wandering disciples of

"Sealing wax, of brickdust, and of pencils without lead,"

appeared, in every particular, calculated for *study* and to *improve* them in their about-to-be-adopted profession, and, consequently, having struck the bargain, they took possession of the *mangling shop*. But finding that studying without customers was worse than pencil hawking, they wisely condemned the folly of thus slowly ascending the hill of medical science, and made themselves a pair of wings, with which they, at one flight, arose above vulgar prejudices, and perched upon the top, to the astonishment of the beholders. Blue bottles were instantly put in the windows, gallipots on the counter, and the painter of *letters*, with large sized capitals, at once *bedaubed* and *bedubbed* them DOCTORS!! It was while they were in this degree of progress that the shameful attempt was made, which the following letter informs us.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SEEING that you are determined to put down the black-guard impostors of Quacks, I send you an account of a circumstance which occurred some years ago It will show you what sort of fellows those are, who cal themselves *Doctors Jordan*. When

they lived in Cannon-street-road in 1816, a little pot-boy thought proper to apply to them for medical advice, when there was *nothing whatever the matter with him*; he was only frightened by another boy who told him that as he had been in *certain company*, he most certainly was *ill*. The boy, on application to the Jordans, was told by them that he must immediately take medicine or he would lose his life, and asked him what he could afford to pay. The boy replied that he had not much money, and offered a few shillings; but the fellows urged him, on account of *danger*, to ask his master for two pounds to buy clothes. The boy applied to his master for the money, and he gave it. In about a fortnight he asked him again for another pound to *buy shirts*, on which the master became suspicious that all was not right, as he saw he had not bought any clothes. He also found a bottle of medicine in the tap room, and by the lad's countenance was almost convinced he was doing something wrong. After a few questions he confessed that, he had given these fellows two pounds, which he obtained from him, by their desire, to *buy clothes*. He was instantly taken to Sir William Blizard, who said that nothing ailed the boy except what arose from the nauseous drugs he had taken! Let them deny this if they can; I am ready, Sir, at all times to come forward and prove it. They were applied to, to refund the money, but they would not; and I fear the law is not strong enough to compel them. I hope, Sir, that you will never cease until you awaken the legislature to those dreadful evils.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J . . . M . . .

We have before us another letter which states that another boy applied to them with a cut finger, and that they got seven shillings out of his pocket; that the boy's father brought him to a surgeon in Whitechapel, who took off the corroding substance which was applied to the wound and gave him a little simple ointment, which healed it, and that the father executed summary punishment on the impostors. But let us continue the history.

Their first outrageous attack upon the public credulity, was their publishing in large placards and handbills, that they became suddenly inspired by a GOLDEN DREAM. This "golden dream" was stuck upon every pane of glass in their shop window, and given out to every passenger. Many believed in the imposition; and they absolutely were consulted by sundry respectable old women in the neighbourhood upon the full faith of their dream! This certainly was a short way to come at qualification.

Whether the following anecdote will prove that those men prosecuted the study of anatomy by dissection or will not, let our readers be the judges: we can assure them of the *truth* of it. A pig was missing from a dairy-yard in the neighbourhood, and the proprietor returning from a search after his lost animal, having necessity to purchase a dose of salts, walked into the shop of the *golden dreamers*, who, from the sequel, appear not to have been *quite awake* at the time. The man of cattle had with him a dog that was remarkable for that busy-body quality of prying into every hole and corner which lay in his way, and, not unfrequently, would turn *out of his way* to gratify his olfactory curiosity, as will be amply shewn in this instance; for while his master was receiving the saline medicament, the cunning quadruped ransacked all parts of the premises. The departing step of his master brought the dog from the parlour, while across in his mouth lay a round longitudinal mass, which his master at first took to be a rat; but upon closer inspection discovered it to be a *pig's tail!* This created an association of ideas in his mind which struck deeply into his feelings, labouring as he was under the afflicting loss of his dearly esteemed pig. "A pig's tail!" ejaculated the man. "Come Snoozer, my dog, let's see it." The obedient forager presented it to his master, who now roared out in stentorian accent, "Why d—me if it beant moy pig's tail!" Enough:—into the parlour he bounced, preceded by his barking jackall, and never stopped until he explored the yard with all its appurtenances. Heads and bloody bones! what a sight! dismembered lay the pig, while the doctors and the dairyman stood wrangling over his remains!

"It *is* my pig."—"It *ish* not *py Got*. I bought him for my dissection." "You bought him to eat." "No py Got, Sir, we eat no *pork*, we are Jews, Sir." Arguments rose thick and fast, teeth gnashed, and dogs barked! The upshot of the affair was, that the *dissecting* doctors were themselves dissected, and the law * * * *—D— the printer's devil! he's now at our elbow waiting for copy, or we "could a tale unfold;" however, we shall take up the matter another time, and conclude now by observing that the brothers are at present practising separately. One resides near Old Gravel Lane, and calls himself "*Doctor*" *Davis*, the other "*Doctor*" *Jordan*, over Blackfriars'-bridge. The latter sometime ago, as he borrowed his own name from scripture, also borrowed his bantling's, "Rakasiri," from the same source. This compound is nothing but a highly stimulating tincture, and the principal ingredient of it is brandy. It is a wretched plagiarism on that humbug *Gilead*:—and for its price and effects our correspondent's letter from Gloucester in our last number will suffice.

*** "Doctor" Lynch, the footman, next.

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OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

For deafness, roast an eel (after being well washed) which will produce a great quantity of fat. This is used by immersing a bit of lint in it, previous to its becoming cold and set, and applying it three times a day to the inside of the ear.

This remedy, we think, a very good one in cases where deafness arises from a want of due secretion in the ear, or in incipient cases, arising from hardened wax. It is so simple, however, that it might be tried in all cases without inconvenience or danger.

—

It is a common practice amongst the peasantry, to make an injection for infants by boiling the intestines of a chicken in water and using a portion of the broth. We believe it an excellent *emolient* injection

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A good lotion to check discharges from ulcerated surfaces:

Take of Sulphate of Zinc, one drachm,
Common Water, half a pint. Mix.

The parts should be washed with little of this previous to dressing.

—

DIURETIC PILL.

Take of powder of Digitalis, twelve grains
Powder of Squills, ten grains
Calomel, five grains
Opium, three grains
Confection of Roses, sufficient to make 12 pills.

This pill is good in cases tending to dropsy, in the dose of one at night and one in the morning.

—

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are threatened with an indictment for libel by the Quacks! We laugh at them. Men who have no honest reputation can never prove injury. We should like to see Eady *in the hands of a good barrister.—'twould be better than a Christmas Pantomime.*

A. W. S. who demands whether Courtney, *of Robert-street, Adelphi, is regular or not, would do well to pause a little. Let him apply to a reputable surgeon. We know C. is an advertiser, and we catch a hint from A. W. S.'s letter; but we cannot now inform him positively.*

We thank Anti-Eadyonian. Old women's remedies are always acceptable, for many good things are amongst them.

A Smoker shall soon have our opinions upon tobacco.

A Disciple of Gall is informed that we shall shortly take up the subject of Craniology.

** * * of Finsbury-square, will find us at our post in supporting him at the meeting of parliament. He will see, before that time, something of the inhuman treatment of sick prisoners in * * * House of Correction that may strengthen his arguments.*

Chemicus *has obliged us and the public. His oxalic acid tests next week.*

M.W.M.'s case is under consideration.

Kendal House of Correction next week.

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THE

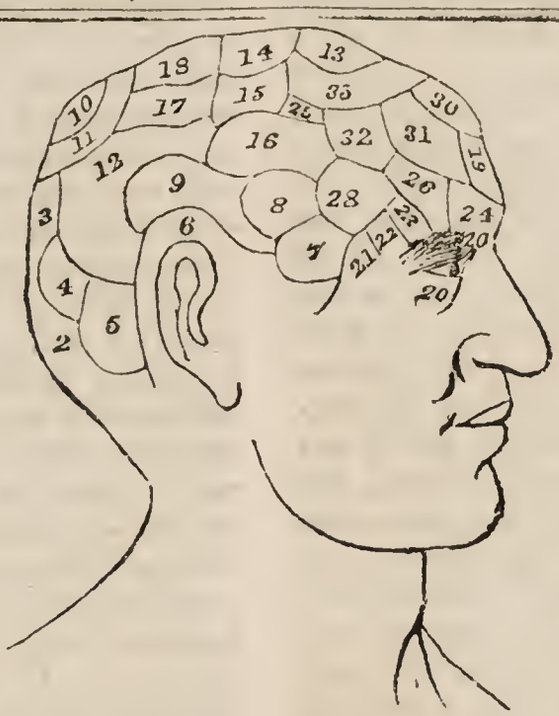
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

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No. 7.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1824. [Price 3*d.*





PHRENOLOGICAL APPEARANCES OF THURTELL'S HEAD

PHRENOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THURTELL'S HEAD.

The science of phrenology is every day gaining partizans, and many of those who at first laughed at the theories broached by Dr. Gall, now flock to his banners. We are glad of it; for their steps are upon ground the most interesting, and of which we have hitherto, and perhaps *as yet*, known nothing. A science which embraces such vast speculations—illumined as it is by some light of hope, should not be turned from, upon a first view, but patiently attended to, through all its apparent or real absurdities, as the diamond finder searches the earth in which the treasure lies. In the present state of this science, practical observation is the best assistant, and therefore criminals, who are, in general, the victims to peculiar passions—and more particularly those guilty of murder, become objects of phrenological interest. On this account we attended the execution of Thurtell, and, having received permission, examined the head, two hours after his death. The plate of our present number gives a striking likeness, and we have marked those elevations which appeared to us as peculiar; and although we differ in some points from the physician who also was present, and who we understand was deputed by the phrenological society to examine Thurtell's head, yet we have the satisfaction to think that we only differ upon niceties—points of difference which must be exploded from phrenological discussion, before that science can make any very decided improvement.

We only observed five developements, namely. benevolence (marked 13.) Form (marked 20.) Destructiveness, very slight (marked 6.) Combativeness (marked 5.) and Amativeness. The physician present with us, however, was of opinion, that the organs of Ideality, Imitation and Comparison were full; however we must confess we could not perceive any particular developement of these organs. He also was of opinion that the organ of destructiveness was fully shewn; but again we disagree with him. It appeared to us that the organ of destructiveness was very slight indeed, that it blended as it were with combativeness, which was a little fuller, and that benevolence was entirely developed. We noticed a fulness from the junction of the nose with the forehead (marked 20, in the top outlined head of our plate) extending back to the veneration (marked 14.) These are decidedly strong arguments against the system of phrenology, if we admit that Thurtell was a cool and deliberate, malicious murderer; for we must either do that or defend him, in accounting for his crime, by imputing it to a sudden impulse of passion. But let us define according to Dr. Gall's theory, the attributes of each of those peculiarities we mention, and then a clear inference may be deduced at once. We extract the definitions from "The Phrenological Transactions."

"Destructiveness.—The special faculty of this organ seems to be the propensity to destroy in general. When it is energetic, it adds force to the whole character. It furnishes the threat of unpleasant consequences in case of disobedience, which gives weight to command. If it is found in combination with a full developement of the higher faculties and sentiments, it naturally adds in the production of a character fitted for great achievements. It does not necessarily lead to cruelty: on the contrary, when benevolence and the higher sentiments are strong, it may be employed with full effect, to promote, by a just severity, the purpose of virtue. It leads to crime only when too energetic, and when the sentiments which counteract it, are not sufficiently powerful. This organ is conspicuous in the heads of cool, deliberate murderers, and persons habitually delighting in acts of cruelty, who are also generally found to be deficient in the higher sentiments. This faculty and combativeness give the tendency to rage."

"Combativeness. — This faculty gives a general propensity to contend, resist, or attack, without determining the modes or objects. When the organ is large and active, delight may be felt even in fighting. It may be mani-

fested in argument as well as in war. It incites us to overcome opposition, and to encounter obstacles of every kind. In all cases of difficulty and danger, when a severe struggle is necessary to command success, this power is of eminent use, and nothing will compensate for the want of it, as an active principle. It is generally large in persons who have murdered, not from premeditated purposes, but from the impulse of the moment."

"BENEVOLENCE.—It has long been a subject of debate among philosophers whether man is entirely selfish in all his actions, or if there is in the mind any sentiment determining him to desire the good of others as a direct object, without reference to any expectation of advantage to himself. The phrenologists have discovered that the desire for the happiness of others, bears a proportion to the size of a particular portion of the brain; and hence they conclude, that benevolence is a primitive sentiment of the mind independent of all selfish considerations. It also gives mildness and cheerfulness to the temper, and a charitable mode of judging of the actions and characters of others. When abused it leads to profusion. A small developement of the organ does not necessarily produce cruelty; it only leads to indifference about the welfare of others. When benevolence is strong and destructiveness weak in the same individual, he is apt to be too facile in his dispositions. When both are vigorous, destructiveness gives fire and energy to the mind, and benevolence modifies and controuls its improper manifestations."

Admitting then that Thurtell's head exhibited the appearances we represent, he was, according to the definition of the Phrenological Society, a well disposed man, and they would lead us to think that he committed the murder under the influence of his combative organ, or from the united influence of that and destructiveness. And if his head exhibits what the deputed physician stated before us, namely, the organs of ideality, imitation, and comparison, Thurtell must have been formed of elements the most enviable. We know that he was a great imitator, and that he indulged in imagination; but we cannot allow that these organs appear developed. We also know that he was a murderer; yet the organ which indicates the disposition to that crime has but a slight appearance, while benevolence is large and full! These arguments, however, should not, we think, be opposed to the system of phrenology; rather should they go to prove that the unfortunate culprit did the murder under an irritation of feeling and revenge, with which supposition the fulness of the organ of combativeness will bear us out. Cool and deliberate murderers are generally cowards; but he has proved by the manner in which he deported himself upon the scaffold and immediately before he left jail, that he was a courageous man—one that could meet death in any shape; and this power belongs to the organ of combativeness. We could perceive in his countenance when he was upon the fatal platform, that the feeling of irritation was working in his breast: his brow—his fierce eye—his contracted lip—his firm step—all shewed that he was in such a state of mind, that if he had then been storming a town, he would have laid many an enemy prostrate.

From between the eyebrows to 30 in the top outline, a great fulness is evident; and along this line are placed the organs of size, form, and individuality. These agree with Dr. Gall's system, but whether Thurtell possessed the corresponding faculties of mind or not, we are yet uninformed. A continued fulness is observable along the top of the head at the juncture of the two parietal bones, from which circumstance veneration and firmness may be imputed to him; but from the anatomical structure of the head, at this part, we must differ from the definition given to the elevations which appear upon that part of the skull. We know that along the line or suture at top of the head, and inside the cranium, runs the longitudinal sinus always distended with blood; and, therefore, the bones directly over this sinus, can receive no impression from the brain; and as all the external risings upon the head are produced by the pressure of the various convolutions of the brain, we can pay no attention to those appearances *situated over the sinuses.*

As our limits in one number will not permit us to dilate sufficiently upon phrenology in general, we shall defer our observations upon this point until our next, and conclude this article by remarking, that the new science has received no accession of strength in Thurtell's head. Physiognomy, on the contrary, has more claims upon it. The narrow forehead, thick eyebrows, small eyes with fat swellings under them, long jaws, curled nostrils, thick lipswith the under one falling, thin hair and circumscribed beard, the lines of the cheeks and angles of the lips almost continuous—all develope the temper and disposition of the criminal far more intelligibly than the present system of phrenology.

*** The upper outline in the plate of this number, represents, by the figures, the situation of those organs to which Dr. Gall imputes certain feelings, which our next phrenological article will embrace.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

[CONTINUED.]

Eruptions on the Skin.

FEW children escape without eruptions on the skin, in the course of the first months of their life; and notwithstanding the frequency of such appearances, nurses and mothers, in general, do not know how to treat the little patients; yet nothing is more simple than the treatment. Some daub the child all over with ointment, others with goulard water, one sends it out into the cold, while another wraps it up in flannel, so that it can scarcely breathe. This mother cares nothing at all about such "trifles," while that sits down to cry over her infant, and not content with one doctor sends for half-a-dozen. A little attention to our following observations will, we hope, set them right; for it is within the capacities of all mothers to do every thing necessary in this affection.

A most common and apparently formidable species of it appears in young children, which is called by the faculty *crusta lactea*. It appears first on the forehead, and frequently on the head, and extends sometimes over the face, and the appearance is not unlike the pustules in the latter stage of small pox. It begins with pustules larger than the itch, which soon become dark and spread, attended with itching and an itcherous discharge. This eruption is by no means dangerous, although it may continue a long time. It not unfrequently attends teething, and disappears when the teeth are developed. During this disease a little rhubarb and magnesia occasionally should be given, and in its worst stages the following powder *daily*:

Of compound powder of contrayerva, three grains.
Of calomel, half a grain—Mix

Let the child be kept from cold: and if the discharge be profuse and irritating, use the following lotion, drying the parts after its use:

Ten grains of sulphate of zinc, dissolved in half a pint of warm water.

The lotion should be used *warm*. Practitioners seldom use such lotions in a tepid state, but we have found that they act far better in checking discharges. It is to be observed that this lotion is not to be used if the child be cutting its teeth.

There are several species of eruptions of the milder order, some appearing in diffused redness, others in small spots, and others in a close rash. These require only attention to keep the child from cold, and the bowels regular.

An eruption very like the itch is to be met with in infants at the breast, and in those who have cut their first teeth. It begins at the arms and thighs and extends frequently over the whole body. In some parts the pustules are not bigger than pins' points, in others as large as peas—sometimes they become large blotches. These die off, and are succeeded by others in different parts, and continue so for months. The following is a mode of cure:

Give ten grains of *hydrargerum cum creta* twice a day. Keep the child from cold; and give an occasional dose of magnesia and rhubarb.

Should any convulsive appearances set in, from the suppression of an eruption, warm baths must be employed, or a few drops of the *aromatic spirit of ammonia*, given every three hours. This very likely will cause the eruption to return.

If eruptions arise from the bad quality of the nurse's milk, the child should

be transferred to another; but careful attention should be observed in ascertaining the fact.

As a general rule in eruptive diseases, it should be always held in mind never to check the eruptions while the child is teething, by external lotions or cold.

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ATROPHY, OR GENERAL WASTING OF THE BODY.

This is a very common disease amongst intemperate or melancholy young people; women suffering form fluor albus, or improper suckling; in those affected with intense grief, and amongst children occasioned by worms. It sometimes also arises from internal organic disease, or a venereal taint in the constitution, and from poor diet, and close impure air.

The symptoms are depression of spirits, indigestion, of appetite, paleness, wasting of the flesh, costiveness, swelling of the belly, and sometimes the legs. As the disease advances, feverish symptoms appear—heat, dry skin, restlessness and excessive debility which gradually terminate in death.

The means of cure, in this complaint, should not be deferred. The patient, if a grown up person, should immediately exert himself to throw off the cause—should seek pleasant society, and good air—turn his attention to his digestive organs, which are the seat of his disease.

In using exercise he must not fatigue himself, but promote a natural heat and circulation of the blood, by riding or short walks. Taking for granted that the cause is removed, the following is a good general plan to be adopted:—keep the bowels regular by taking a scruple of rhubarb every second day, and the intermediate mornings, before breakfast, a dose of Seidlitz powders—for which we shall give the receipt next number. Live upon nourishing diet and about two or three glasses of wine daily, not taken at one time. If the patient be melancholy, wine, or a little spirits and water, is absolutely necessary; but it must be very little. Let the patient drink artificial asses' milk, (to make which see page 44) in the morning or middle of the day. This plan strictly adhered to (always supposing the *cause* overcome; and this most frequently is in the mind) success will generally follow.

If the disease arise from worms, the worm powder recommended in p. 64, should be used, and when this cause is removed, the above plan should be attended to. If organic disease exist, which may be known by the non-success of the above remedies, persisted in for a month, then five grains of the blue pill should be taken every night, attending still to the bowels; and this plan will equally apply if a venereal taint be the cause, which however is not so frequent an occurrence as physicians say—we mean when attended with *no other* venereal symptom.

When the disease attacks children they should be first treated as above, *for worms:* and in nine cases out of ten the treatment will succeed: however, good air, wholesome diet, milk, chicken broth, &c. should be attended to; and should no benefit appear in a month, an alterative course of medicine should be had recourse to, under the direction of a physician. In all species of the disease, the following draught may be taken daily.

Off sub-carbonate of potass, a scruple
Water, two table spoons full.
Mix and add a little sugar.

Put into another vessel, one table spoon full of lemon juice, and pour the mixture upon it, it will effervesce, and in that state should be drank. This is a refreshing and healthful draught, and will promote the appetite. The *tonic* mixture, p. 44, may be taken with benefit, but not persisted in more than a fortnight unless relief be evident.

↓†↓ We shall treat of corpulency next.

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REMEDY FOR HOOPING COUGH.

A CORRESPONDENT states to us that *a plaster of gum galbanum* applied to the chest will, in all cases, give relief, and in many completely cure. "This simple remedy," he observes, "has been used for many years by the mother of a large family *without a*

single failure." We ourselves think it a good application to assist in the cure; and we think, as a warm and gently stimulating plaster, would be attended with benefit in most species of cough.

Dr. Burrows states the following to be the proportion of suicides in Paris and London, in one year.

	Suicides.	Population.
Paris.	300	700,000
London	200	1,000,000

It is reported that the man at Carlisle, who has swallowed the knife, is wasting in flesh daily. Death however is not so soon to be expected. In Dr. Marcet's case, related in the forty-eighth vol. of the London Medical and Physical Journal, the man swallowed thirty five-knives at different periods, some of them passed, and others were found after death in various fixed situations, internally. The man died in 1809. The knife swallowed at Carlisle is much larger, and cannot pass.*

A correspondent from Dublin, informs us that two cases have occurred, in which the knee joint has been taken out by Mr. Crampton, and an attempt made to unite the great bones of the thigh and leg—the *femur* and *tibia*—and both are doing well. Our correspondent, who was present at those operations, and a surgeon of acknowledged talent, observes:—" though I mention the cases, I by no means recommend the operations: they are bloody, tedious, and I doubt their ultimate benefit."

We are informed that Doctor Byrne, of Dublin, has in the press, a work intended to prove a *new theory of life and death*, and also a *new theory of animal heat!* —nous verrons.

A great deal has been said about the invention of a new instrument, for removing poison from the stomach. We have been assured by Mr. Reed, that he is the inventor, and again by Mr. Churchill that Mr. Jukes alone has the merit. We have received a long letter from that gentleman, endeavouring to establish Mr. Juke's claim; and although that letter satisfactorily proves to us, that the idea of removing poison from the stomach, by an instrument, was the legitimate offspring of Mr. Juke's invention, yet that constructed by Mr. Reed, *might* have been his own invention. However Mr. Juke's paper upon the subject appeared long before Mr. Reed's instrument.

We have received a drawing of Mr. Juke's invention, from Mr. Churchill, which with that gentleman's letter and a full examination of the subject shall appear in our next.

Dr. Markham has communicated to us from Edinburgh, the success of the acetete of morphine in a case of catarrh, attended with visceral derangement. Thus the opinions of Mr. Lens, Dr. Majendie, and Dr. Alloneau, receive a further strength. This medicine was given in doses of a quarter of a grain, twice a day.

The advantage of this medicine is, that in small doses, none of the bad effects of opium appear.

THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. 1.

(*Continued.*)

Europe coalesced for the destruction of France. Fourteen armies covered the frontiers to defend her national independence—and sudden was the event! The wants of the wounded daily multiplied. Physicians, surgeons and apothecaries were called by the law to give their assistance. The government, therefore, naturally interested itself in the instruction of the youth destined to replace those whom age or the fortune of war took from the military schools of health. An order was issued, deciding that Val-de-Grâce at Paris, the hospitals at Metz, Lille, Strasbourg, and Toulon, should become hospitals of instruction. Professors were appointed, and the courses suitably regulated. The energy which the republic imparted to all the community was no where more evident than in the School of Health at Paris: the title of *Eleves de la Patrie* stimulated their exertions, and at the same time reminded them

* In our last number we proposed to the ingenious a plan to remove the knife, but have not yet received a satisfactory communication.

of their duty as citizens, while the prizes distributed excited them to emulation. This institution might be copied with advantage in every country, but with permanent benefit in England, where the practice of medicine is made a matter of trade, and men set up with no more claims to knowledge than a shew of bottles and drugs.

No college or school existed to confer the degree of Doctor; and it was only necessary to be brought up as an *Eleve de la Patrie:* but neither the schools nor the hospitals were shut against those who wished to initiate themselves into the secrets of the science. The government resolved no longer to be a reproach to the ancient institutions, and therefore restored the college to its lustre and dignity. The three schools of health were established by a decree of the 19th September, 1803; it ordered at the same time the organization of three new schools, which the immense population of the territory adjoined to the French empire rendered necessary. The examinations established in former times were re-established with modifications; which are followed to this day. After that period none could aspire to the title of doctor, or to the right of exercising medicine and surgery, until after having studied four years, and paid the expences of instruction and examination. Yet it is not to be supposed that the physicians of expectation who graduate at Paris, will be anxious to practise in small villages, and yet the people of those places are not to be abandoned to the destructive ignorance of quacks. And on the other side, a man of narrow fortune, who wishes to study physic, may not be able to quit those villages, go to Paris, from the extremity of the empire, and pay all the expences consequent upon the study of his profession at Paris. Therefore in the principal town of each department a board of doctors in surgery was established for the purpose of examining all who had been six years under the tuition of a doctor in surgery, or five years in an hospital: and they were empowered to grant those whom they approved of, the title of *officer of health.* These cannot, however, practise, except under certain restrictions: they are obliged not to perform any capital operation, excep in the presence of a doctor in surgery Yet it is with them that the great abuse is gradually creeping into the profession. These officers of health, like our apothecaries, are every day taking upon themselves the office of physician. The diploma becomes nothing in the eye of the vulgar: the Charlatan occupies their confidence, and laughs equally at parchment and professions.

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SIMPLE TESTS TO DISTINGUISH OXALIC ACID FROM EPSOM SALTS.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I perfectfy agree with you in your remarks on the prevention of danger arising from *oxalic acid,* mentioned in the fourth number of your interesting work. I have abandoned the sale some time past myself, and I should feel happy if my brethren in the profession were unanimous in discarding it wholly from their shops; but as I fear too many are actuated by *sordid motives,* and will not do so until compelled by legislative interference, I have subjoined two or three tests, whereby oxalic acid may be easily distinguished from Epsom salts.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
CHEMICUS.

—

Let a few drops of vinegar be mixed with the solution—if it is oxalic acid, its colour will change: if Epsom salts, not;—or, dip a silver spoon, or put a sixpence into the mixture; if oxalic acid, the colour of the silver will be changed; if Epsom salts it will not; as it respects the taste, if the tip of the tongue be applied to the solution, the detection would appear at once, without danger, for oxalic acid is *strong, hot, and very sour.* Epsom salts have merely a gentle sort of bitter saltness;—or, dip the end of dark purple paper * into the solution; if

* The dark purple paper in common use, dyed by vegetable purple, is *Litmus paper.*

oxalic acid has been improvidently substituted, the colour of the paper will be instantaneously rendered a *bright red:* on the other hand, in a solution of Epsom salts, it remains *perfectly unchanged.*

I think you will agree with me, Mr. Editor, that the above cannot be too generally known.

Jan. 2, 1824. CHEMICUS.

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ESSAY ON HYDROSTATICS.

THIS science treats of the nature, gravity, pressure and motion of fluids in general, and of weighing solids in them. Water, like air, consists of round and hard particles, as is proved by putting salt in water, without increasing its bulk, and by the Florentine experiment, which forces water through the pores of a copper ball: hence it is evident there are varieties in fluids, and that no fluid can be pressed into a less space than it naturally possesses, except air and steam.

Fluids are said to be perfect or imperfect as their parts slide with more or less ease over one another; therefore quicksilver is the most perfect of all fluids. Water being of the imperfect kind is seldom pure, it adheres to any substance it meets with, mixes with its particles, and thence becomes impregnated with whatever strata it runs over. If water has come over an alkaline stratum, the syrup of violets turns it green: if over an acid stratum, the syrup turns it red; if over iron stone, or iron mine, a solution of gall turns it black, and if over an alum stratum, oil of tartar turns it thick, &c.—hence water impregnated with limestone, and oozing slow amongst mosses, leaves, &c., as the water evaporates, the stony matter adheres to these substances, and assuming their shapes, gives that variety of whimsical petrefactions we meet with in Derbyshire, the dropping well at Knaresborough, &c.

Water being incompressible, will not be more dense at the bottom than the top of the sea, but will have the wonderful property of pressing upwards and sideways, as forcibly as downwards, in proportion to its perpendicular height, without any regard to its quantity; for as each particle is quite free to move, it will move towards that part on which the pressure is least, and hence no particle or quantity of a fluid can be at rest till it is every way equally pressed: a fluid may therefore be conceived as made up of perpendicular columns of particles, and as divided into imaginary surfaces, each an inch or more from one another, the lowest pressed with the weight of all the rest, &c.—hence a pipe fixed under the greater number of surfaces, will discharge the most water.

To prove that fluids press in all manner of directions alike, take some glass tubes, open at both ends, but bent into all kinds of angles; if these be put into water, nearly to their tops, the water will rise in them to its own level; or take a vessel full of water, with a hole at the bottom of its side, of the same size as one in its bottom, and the two holes will be found to discharge the same quantity of the fluid in the same time.

That fluids press in proportion to their depth, without any regard to their quantity, is evident: 1st. From a bladder tied flaccid over one end of an open cylinder of glass, if water be poured into it, the bladder will bulge downwards, but if it be immersed in a vessel of water, till the surface of the water within the cylinder be even with that in the vessel, the bladder will then be flattish, as if it were not pressed at all; for indeed it is then pressed equally:—if the cylinder be plunged deeper, the bladder will be pressed upwards, shewing that bodies swim merely by the force of the pillar of water under them, endeavouring to rise to its level. 2d. Lead is about 11½ times heavier than its bulk of water; if therefore a piece be held tight to the mouth of a cylinder, (open at both ends) by a string within the cylinder, and let down into water above eleven times its thickness, below the surface of the water, it will then fall off and sink. 3rd. If a tube open at one end, and filled with quicksilver, have its open end immersed in a basin of quicksilver,

hung so by strings that it may be let down into a deep vessel of water, according to the depth the vessel is sunk, the mercury will rise a fourteenth part in the tube, and demonstrate that quicksilver is fourteen times heavier than water. 4th. If lead with a flat upper side, be laid on the bottom of a vessel, and a piece of flat wood be held on it, while the vessel is filling with water, if no water can get in between the lead and the wood, to form an upward pressure, the wood will be held on the lead by its own weight, and that of the water above it. 5th. If an empty bottle, made sufficiently heavy to sink in water, be corked, and suspended at one end of a balance, with its cork pulled out, and then immersed in water, and filled, it will require as much weight in the opposite scale to pull it up, as will weigh all the water in it, which shews that fluids weigh just as much in their own element, as out of it. 6th. If a small tube thirty inches long, open at both ends, and to one end (bent to a right angle) it has a large bladder tied, the bladder being put in a box, and a board laid on it, with twenty-five or thirty pounds weight upon it, and water be poured into the tube, the bladder will raise the weights, though the bore of the tube should be so small, as not to hold an ounce of water. 7th. The pressure of a fluid upon the bottoms of all vessels whatever, is proportional to their bases and perpendicular height, without any regard to the quantities they contain; for if on a loose piston, suspended on a balance, a column of water of a foot be weighed, it will be found to weigh as much as a column of water of the same height, though contained in a flanging vessel, that holds ten times as much. 8th. If a small tube be joined to a very large one, and the whole be bent in the bottom, so as the two parts may be either parallel, or make any angle, water may be poured into either tube, and it will just rise as high in the other, even though the one should contain ten thousand times as much as the other: this also shews that fluids press in proportion to their perpendicular heights, without any regard to their quantities; that water in pipes will ascend to the level of the spring from whence it came, and that jets or fountains would rise the same height if not obstructed by angular turnings and the resistance of the air into which they play.

Smoke does not rise into the air because of its positive levity, but from its being lighter than the air where it is produced; hence if the small neck of a bolthead full of water be immersed in a glass of wine, the lighter wine will ascend up into the bolthead, and the heavier water descend into the glass; for the same reason a body specifically, (or bulk for bulk) heavier than water will sink in it; a body of the same weight will lie indifferently any where in it, and one specifically lighter will of course swim in it.

DEFECTS OF FEMALE BEAUTY

We shall consider the defects of female beauty according to the classification we adopted in the first of these articles, commencing page 35, viz. MECHANICAL, VITAL, AND INTELLECTUAL SYSTEMS, and to understand these terms, our readers must refer to that part of our work. First, then—

Defects of the Mechanical System.

1. It is a defect, if the WHOLE OSSEOUS SYSTEM be not smaller than in man; *because* in woman, it ought to be completely subordinate to the vital.

2. It is a defect, if the MUSCULAR SYSTEM, though generally more soft and yielding than in man, be not, in some places, larger; *because* this is especially necessary in the thighs, for reasons which will be afterwards assigned, as well as to complete her greater base of sustentation, and to permit the ease and suppleness of her movements.

3. It is a defect, if, in a mature female, the length of the NECK, compared with the trunk, be not proportionably somewhat less than in the male; *because* in her the predominance of the vital system, and the dependance of the intellectual, are naturally connected with the shorter course of the vessels which pass from the former to the latter. Hence, men who

have a very large trunk, have generally a short neck, and are liable to apoplectic affections.

4. It is a defect, if the UPPER PART OF THE BODY (exclusive of the bosom) be proportionally more, and the LOWER PART OF THE BODY less prominent than in man, so that, when she stands upright, or lies on the back, the space between the breasts is more prominent than the pubis; because such conformation is injurious to the sexual union, and indicates unfitness for gestation and parturition.

5. It is a defect, if THE SHOULDERS seem as wide as the haunches; *because* this appearance generally arises from the narrowness of the pelvis, and its consequent unfitness for gestation and parturition.

6. It is also a defect, if the SHOULDERS be much narrower than the pelvis; *because* it indicates extreme weakness of the mechanical system and its utter disproportion to the vital.

7. It is a defect if THE SHOULDERS do not slope from the lower part of the neck; *because* it shows that the upper part of the chest is not sufficiently wide of itself, but is rendered angular by the muscularity, &c. of the shoulder.

8. It is consequently a defect, if the UPPER PART OF THE CHEST owe not its breadth rather to itself than to the size of the shoulders; because it shows that the vital organs contained in the chest are not sufficiently expanded.

9. It is a defect, if THE BACK be not hollow; *because* it shows that the pelvis is not sufficiently deep to project posteriorly, nor consequently of sufficient capacity for gestation and parturition.

10. It is a defect, if the chest do not form an inverted cone, whose apex is THE WAIST; *because* in that case, the lightness and beauty of the mechanical system is destroyed by the unrestrained expansion of the vital.

11. It is a defect if the HAUNCHES be not widely expanded (as already implied in speaking of the shoulders;) *because* the interior cavity of the pelvis is then insufficient for gestation and parturition.

12. It is a defect if the DEPTH OF THE PELVIS, or its projection backward, be not enough to render the back hollow; *because* the capacity of the pelvis is then likewise insufficient for gestation and parturition.

13. It is a defect if THE THIGHS be not larger than in man, because that argues a consequent smallness of the pelvis.

14. It is a defect if THE ARMS AND THE LIMBS do not taper gently as they recede from the trunk, and if the hands and feet be not small; because, it is the vital system and the trunk which is by far the most important part in the female.

15. It is a defect, if THE ARMS be not shorter than in man; because these parts are less related to the more feminine vital, than to the more masculine, mechanical system.

Defects of the Vital System.

1. It is a defect, if in a young woman, THE MAMMÆ, without being too large, do not occupy the bosom, and rise from it with equal curves on every side, which equally terminate in their apices; or if, in the mature woman, they do not seem laterally to protrude on the space occupied by the arms; *because*, it shows that this important part of the vital system is insufficiently developed.

2. It is a defect, if THE WAIST, tapering little further than the middle of the trunk, and being sufficiently marked, be not always encroached on as it were by the voluptuous em-bonpoint, of all the contiguous parts; *because*, it similarly shows feebleness in that system, which is, by far, the most important to woman.

3. It is a defect, if THE WAIST, on the contrary be broad; *because*, it shows that expansion of the liver and other glands which is generally the result of their improper excitement.

4. It is a defect, if THE ABDOMEN be not moderately expanded, its upper portion beginning to swell out higher, even than the umbilicus, and its greater projection being almost immediately under that point; *because*, it shows a weakness of the great vital system, and a disproportion to the parts immediately above.

5. It is a defect, if THE ABDOMEN, which should be highest immediately under the umbilicus, slope not gently towards the inferior part, and is more

prominent elsewhere; *because*, it is the result of that excessive expansion which takes place during parturition.

7. It is a defect, if a REMARKABLE FULNESS exist not behind the upper part of the haunches, and on each side of the lower part of the spine, commencing as high as the waist; *because*, it indicates feebleness in that system which is most essential to woman.

8. It it a defect, if THE SKIN be not transparent, the COMPLEXION fair and the hair fine; *because*, these likewise show the feebleness of that system most important to woman.

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Defects of the Intellectual System.

1. It is a defect of the intellectual system if the head compared with the trunk be not less than that of the male, *because* the intellectual system in the female ought to be subordinate to the vital.

2. It is a defect, if THE ORGANS OF SENSE be not proportionally larger, when compared with the brain, and more delicately outlined than the male; *because*, sensibility should exceed reasoning power in the female.

3. It is a defect, if THE FOREHEAD be narrow, and more especially if it be low; *because*, that part being the seat of observation, if the organ be small, the function must be correspondingly so.

4. It is a defect, if THE EYELIDS, instead of an oblong, form nearly a circular aperture, resembling somewhat the eye of monkies, cats, or birds; *because*, this round eye, when large, and especially when dark, is always indicative of a bold, and, when small, of a pert, insensibility of character.

With this we close the series of articles on FEMALE BEAUTY.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

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"Doctor" Lynch, the Footman.

IN our preceding numbers, we have sketched an outline of those marauding quacks and swindlers—Eady the wall-chalker, Twynam the bone-setter, Cameron the *water*-taster, and Jordans—*alias* Davis, *alias* Levy, *alias* any thing else, the Rakasiri rogues; — we now add a *worthy* to the list—who, though last, is not least —the *stricture*-humbug and swindler, DOCTOR LYNCH—that wholesale dealer in audacity, who advertises to remove strictures of whatever nature, without bougées, merely by transmitting the afflicted believer a package of his "Medicine," (previously paid for) at the small charge of FIVE POUNDS!!! We take upon us to state, and every one acquainted with anatomy will agree with us, that this fellow has confirmed more strictures, caused more suppressions, inflammations of the kidneys and death, than any of his ignorant fraternity, even Eady or Cameron not excepted, and for this simple reason: his charge for "Medicine" being *five pounds*, he needs must supply a thumping dose—bottles and powders. Well, as every body who applies to him as a patient in this complaint knows the seat of the disease, they also will agree with us, that medicines to cure must be directed to that point. Now, no internal medicines can have any effect upon it, except through the kidneys, and therefore all this swindler's nostrums must be *diuretics*. What is the consequence? He sends the unfortunate, credulous, and ignorant patient (for we must call him *ignorant* who knows no better than to consult such a knave as Lynch) a heap of drugs, whose effect is to act upon the kidneys violently, and the sufferer, already strictured, now finds himself doubly so—but what remedy has he? Lynch has pocketed his five pounds, and the law cannot take it back—that law, that can transport a wretch who obtains *five shillings* under any *other* false pretences but this, and that to save himself from starvation; while the culprit who thus pockets his five pounds is permitted to go unpunished, and thus accumulate still greater means of extending his infamous impositions throughout society! Why should this be? Are the Members of Parliament amongst the credulous? Do they forget that quacks were only tolerated, in early times, because the science of medicine was scanty, and that people were glad to have any

thing that professed to cure. Do they forget that we have now a phalanx of physicians and surgeons, who have arrived at the highest pitch of European Medical knowedge? No; they do not: but the practice of public quacking has been since they can remember, and the flagrancy of its evils have never been exposed. We are convinced that if any one member of parliament would bring in a bill to restrict quackery, that it would pass *nem. con.*; and that the nation would, with one voice, thank its projector. One rogue (Jordan) charges 8*l.* 5*s.* for a bottle or two of his pernicious stuff, and swindles an innocent boy out of two guineas for *nothing*: another, (Twynam) 40*l.* for absolutely *destroying* a man's leg; a third, (Eady) ruins a poor young man, for life, by *paralysing his limbs*, for which he charged him 11*l.*; a fourth, (Cameron) talks a man out of *three guineas*; and Lynch charges 5*l.* a dose for his mixture of pernicious ingredients!* Let us then ask, IS THIS NOT A CRYING EVIL TO SOCIETY? and at a time when improvement and refinement so rapidly flies, that even our lanes and alleys are recommended to be *painted* †—when the comfortable quiet of our citizens is so scrupulously observed, that two people cannot stop to talk in the street after midnight—when the health and pockets of the public are so paternally regarded, that respectable men cannot sit in a tavern after eleven o'clock, lest they should become poor and bilious—when the morals of the community are so *magisterially* attended to, that the open air-birds of night cannot either bill or coo without the danger of tread-mill exercise—when we have societies for the suppression of vice, mendicants, and swindling; constitutional associations; committees, treasurers, sub-treasurers, and dinners—is it not, we ask, strange that with all these safeguards to public property and morals, nothing has yet been done to abolish the destructive pest of medical quackery?

And what have those quacks abovementioned been, previous to their taking up their present course of life? Observe; Twynam, was a *leather breeches maker*; Eady, a *poor half-starved haberdasher*; Cameron, a *pot boy*; Jordans, *Jew boy pencil hawkers* and *old clothes men*; and Lynch (heaven save the mark!) a footman!!! These are only a few: our *Annals of Quackery* will shew many more by and bye;—but to our precious character, Doctor Lynch.

Lynch set up as a doctor about six years ago, on rather a novel plan. He thought by following the usual track of advertisers, and charging an apparently reasonable sum, that he would stand no chance; for in his department—the *tricture line*—there were so many, that *he* could have no chance. Cunning enough then, he adopted the determination to charge 5*l.* at one slap for a dose of his "medicine" and thus *astonish* his readers into a trial. Three guineas was all the ready money he could spare for advertising, and this he laid out upon it. The bait took. He got many five pounds, which were always followed by abusive and threatening letters from his gulled customers; but Lynch, who was on the right side of the road, never looked behind him. He only wanted the fee; as for the connexion and acquaintanceship, or their correspondence, all might—as he elegantly says—"go be d——d."

Well,—he was a footman, as we observed, but that was not all; he was originally in a far humbler capacity—a helper in a stable—a common *dung boy!* Having been out of place, and finding that there was little likelihood of his getting *into* one, with the recommendations he possessed, he hit upon his scheme of *doctoring*, and a man of the name of *Martin Thornton*, a shoemaker, was the person who first awakened his good fortune by directing him to this attempt. That fact has been communicated to us by the *man himself*, who also states that, like other great people, he now forgets his old friend, and the pot of porter he treated him with, in the Ship tap, at Charing-cross, the day he gave his

* For the particulars of these charges we refer our readers to our former numbers.

† See Monthly Magazine for January.

incipient doctorship the Midas touch of information! This is enough to know of the fellow's opportunity to acquire a knowledge of strictures. Let us now give a word of advice to the public upon the impossibility of removing the disease by such means as Lynch offers.

Stricture is a mechanical, or rather physical, obstruction. It is produced by a contraction, and sometimes a thickening, of the internal membrane. It is obvious, therefore, that no medicine taken internally can lessen this obstruction; for it is not like stone, or any calculous matter, that is independent of the system, but a soft part of the body. We can have no such thing as *dissolving* it. Solid applications must be employed with it; and pressure from the bougée is the only sure method. *This may be relied upon.* What use then can these diuretic drugs be? None. On the contrary, they increase the quantity of fluid to pass, and therefore distension and total suppression may be the consequence, from which frequently proceed a sudden and violent death! This fellow's drugs *are the most crude and stimulating diuretics,* and to swallow them with or without a stricture, is to stand upon the brink of the grave. Let us entreat the public to open their eyes, and not blindly rely upon impostors like these, who are, alike, reckless of their dupe's safety or their own consciences. Are there not men of education, ability and experience, to be met with every where? The humblest surgeon *knows,* at least, the ground over which he treads; but these fellows dash on through thick and thin, carrying destruction at their tread; the fee of the time is all they look for, and unwary strangers are their support. Could our limits permit us to publish the letters we have received, our assertions would need no other arguments. We have received four relating to this Lynch, now before us. One from Birmingham, one from Devizes, and two from Exeter, all inveighing bitterly against the impostor. We have, also, one from a London surgeon, who attended a gentleman that had unfortunately been treated by Lynch for stricture; we are forbidden to publish, but shall give the substance of it, as it tends to show "Doctor" Lynch in a most ludicrous light.

An elderly gentleman, who had been induced to put himself under the Quack's care, and finding to his cost that he only got worse, sent for a regular Surgeon—a gentleman whom we are proud to call our friend—a man of genuine and undisputed talent in his profession. The invalid's intention was to let them both meet, and to hear their respective opinions together, thereby to come at a better opportunity of judging of Lynch's treatment. The Quack was sitting by his bedside when the Surgeon walked into the room. He asked what he had been taking in the way of medicine, and the gentleman said he did not rightly know; but that Dr. Lynch would inform him: at which the "Doctor" began, "Why, Sir, you see this here gentleman has got a stricture, and a devil of a one it is. He is in my hands a good while, and I thinks as how there's something of an *information* about his *lines,* for he's took the matter o' five pints of my mixture." What mixture is that, Sir? may I ask," said the Surgeon—"O" replied the Doctor, winking his left eye, and touching his nose with his fore finger, "that's *atwixt* myself and the wall. But you see, Sir, the complaint does not lay altogether about his *urefra*, nor in his *grines.* Look here, Sir," (stripping the patient's breast) "Look here Sir, how swelled he is. The liver and lights I'll hould a crown is too big for his *forax*; for which reason I gave him a womit, just to bring summot up." Here was a pause, of gravity and consequence in the "Doctor"—of astonishment and stifled laugh in the Surgeon—and of ghastly horror in the poor patient "Lord have mercy! bring up my liver, and lights, eh!" "No, my friend, this gentleman here, who I suppose is a regular Doctor, understands me better; I only say your liver and lights is too big: we must take 'em down." "*Down*? La! that's just as bad as *up.*" "'Dont be alarmed," continues Lynch; "we'll now have a consul-

'ation upon you." The word *consultation* awoke the Surgeon from his amazement; and starting up, he told the patient he would call at a more appropriate time and instantly left the room. "There's a conceited coxcomb," says the "Doctor," snapping his fingers, "Why, Sir, the whole bunch of your regular Doctors a'n't worth a doit. I'd do more in half an hour than twenty on 'em in a week. What's Sir Astley Cooper? a humbug. And what's Abernethy? another humbug. And what's all the whole college of surgeons? why all a set of d——d humbugs together." Here he strutted about the room while the poor patient only prayed that he might speedily be gone. Lynch, however, very soon withdrew, with a promise to call again next day; and in the evening the surgeon again called, and apologized for leaving the patient so abruptly, by stating, that he did not know who Lynch was at first; but finding by his conversation, that he was a most illiterate quack, he felt it his duty to withdraw.

Proper advice was now given the patient, and the treatment he had received from Lynch exposed; and feeling that he would not so soon lose his liver and lights, he vowed vengeance against the Quack. This vow, however, the invalid forgot by the next day, and he determined only to play him a harmless trick. The following is the account of it:—

Who has justly more cause to be enraged with a quack than one whose health has been drivelled into semi-ruin by his ignorance and impudence? Had the gentleman of whom we write possessed the unqualified developement of the destructive organ, heaven help the *stricturer* when he next appeared in his presence! But, possessing, as his amiable cranium did, organs not fully defined by Spurzheim and Gall—the organs of humour and satire—he determined to revenge himself upon Lynch as lord Byron, ere this, no doubt, has done with his quondam captain that carried him to Greece. On this he determined, and thus it was:—he arose and sat himself down in his arm chair by the fire, in deep and pleasant contemplation, while in front of him sat his little nephew watching every movement of his countenance, and beside him a favourite old terrier. This dog in a few moments became restless, and trotted frequently about the chamber as if he laboured under some unpleasant sensation. It attracted our invalid's attention, and he soon saw the animal relieved of his troubles in the centre of the carpet—but let us not dwell here: the dog did what every dog did before him, and will do after him, as long as dogs are dogs. The invalid's thoughts instantly were drawn to a point. He smiled, and taking from his desk a sheet of paper, placed upon it four or five portions of the circular substance with which his terrier furnished him. This he laid before the fire to the astonishment of his little nephew, who scrutinously observed his actions. He sat smoking his pipe until the contents of the paper were perfectly dry—so dry that it fell into powder. This powder he rubbed very finely, and divided some of it into six parts, folding in fine white paper a small square portion, upon which he wrote "*one of these powders to be taken every hour*," and the remainder he put into a phial, with a little water. In the course, the evening, several friends dropped in, to see him, with whom he was unusually gay—the late John Emery, peace to his soul, was one—and very soon after came in "Doctor" Lynch.—"Ha! Doctor how do? sit down."—"Well, Sir," replied Lynch, "how do you find yourself? you look better." "Why Doctor I am not better, but I hope I soon shall be, when I take this medicine, which was given me by the surgeon you saw to-day." Here he produced the powders and mixture so ingeniously prescribed by himself, and furnished by his pharmaceutical terrier. The very sight of the *regular* abomination, changed the countenance of the charlatan—"Let me look at this fine surgeon's medicine—come let's see." The packet was opened, and the phial uncorked—first a smell—"Phew!" then a taste—"Pshaw"—smell and taste—taste and smell, alternately, for some time, while the patient suppressed his laugh, and the little boy in the corner almost choked with "kinking!" Jack Emery and his friend believing

Lynch to be a regular surgeon retained a becoming and laudable gravity, while Toby the dog looked with undisturbed calmness upon the proceedings. "Why Sir, this here stuff is only chalk and water, and that there powder is nothing but crab's claws, with a little smell put to it to pass it off—it can do you neither good nor harm." "How can you prove that?" said the invalid. "Let the Doctor take some of it himself," said Emery in his usual blunt way. "Ay, take the whole on 'em if that was all," replied Lynch with a contemptuous sneer "Well, Doctor, if you take one of the powders, and I see it has no particular effect, I'll discharge the surgeon, and you alone shall have my health in your hands." "That I will directly," returned the consummate "Doctor," and filling out a glass of water, put the powder into it which he instantly swallowed. As soon as it was down, he spit out once or twice, and putting on a composed look evidently against his will, said, "It is no manner of medicine, I assure you, but crab's claws." Nothing could now equal the laughter of the invalid, and his watchful little nephew, at which all stared, but most of all the "Doctor." "What are you laughing at, my little fellow?" said he. "Why Sir, at your thinking it is crab's claws. La! Doctor, it is Toby's * * * * —I saw uncle dry it, and powder it himself!!" The laughter and uproar that now took place, from the visitors becoming acquainted with the joke was excessive, and Lynch mortified with shame and the emetic powers of his imagination, retreated with curses on his tongue, and threatening to have the amount of his bill next day. This however he never got, and we trust he never will. We believe Mr. Oxberry can prove this fact.

Mrs. Johnson, the child-killer, next.

†‡† Information relative to medical quacks and quackeries will be always thankfully received. We request our readers to furnish what they can.

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AN EXAMPLE TO MAGISTRATES.

THE House of Correction at Kendal is to be enlarged and improved, but without THE DISGRACEFUL AND CRUEL appendage of a TREAD MILL, as has been reported; THE MAGISTRATES having, greatly to their credit, rejected that odious and inhuman instrument of punishment, and adopted the Hand Mills!!! *Carlisle Journal.*

No more *tumbling off the wheels*, in hysterical convulsions, for poor females, in *this* jail. Rome was not built in a day. Another year's torture, we hope, is *all* that wretched women will suffer from the inquisitorial Tread Mills.

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POWERFUL OPTICAL ILLUSION.

(*From the Examiner.*)

A YOUNG lady, who died in this town, had been some time previous to her death attended by a gentleman of the Medical profession. On the evening of her decease, as this gentleman was sitting in company with a friend of his, and in the act of taking a glass of punch, he imagined he saw the lady walk into the room where himself and his friend were sitting, and having but a few hours before visited her, and found her in a dying state, the shock that his nerves experienced was so great, that the glass which held the punch fell from his hands, and he himself dropped on the floor in a fainting fit; after he had perfectly recovered himself and made enquiry about the lady, it was ascertained, that a few minutes before the time, the medical gentleman imagined he had seen her in his friend's apartment, she departed this life. *Carlow Paper.*

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EXTRACT FROM A MILITARY SURGEON'S NOTE-BOOK.

On the Prince of Orange's birth-day, 1815, a *feu de joie* had been fired from the ramparts of Ostende. A young artilleryman, from inexperience, remained before the gun as the match was put to it: he was blown several yards away On seeing him in the hospital, both his arms were so shattered that they were removed instantly; one by Dr Robert Venables, of the artillery, author of a paper on oxalic acid; and the other by myself. The stumps healed

in about three weeks, and the man was sent home in perfect health to be placed on a pension.* He was one of the finest looking men in the corps.

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OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

SWALLOWING Vinegar to pass a small fish bone that sticks in the throat.

This is a good remedy. If any fluid will pass it, this has the most claim; it creates a roughness which, as it were, *grinds* in deglutition.

—

PUTTING strong spirits in the shoes to preserve the feet, when walking a great distance.

This is attended with great benefit we are informed by pedestrians. We approve of it—The spirit astringes the perspirable vessels of the feet.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Antibilious and Pectoral Pills.

Powder of squills, six grains.
Powder of digitalis, three grains.
Compound extract of colocynth, half a drachm.
Calomel, four grains.
Mix, with conserve of roses, and make into ten pills.

In females who are bilious, and also affected in the chest, this pill taken in the dose of two every third or fourth night, will be of great benefit.

Ophthalmic Lotion.

Water, half a pint.
Sulphate of zinc, one drachm.
Tincture of opium, 3 drachms. Mix.

This is good for weak eyes which discharge water.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. W. M. in our view of his case needs no operation whatever, nor is the complaint dangerous. Let him take a spoonful of treacle and sulphur, at night, and in the middle of the day chew a little ungrouna rhubarb. Let him inform us the result in a fortnight. Burgoo and milk for breakfast, might supersede the necessity of medicine.

Neb: Dirpe's has been received: 'twas too late.

A. W. S's. case is of such a nature, that we cannot reply to him in our pages; but if he will give us a clear and fully described case, we shall be happy to send our opinion where he pleases. Let him lose no time.

M. T. should state the age, habits &c., of the Young Female: let her however take the cough mixture, page 8, first column.

Anti-quackery, has obliged us. If we receive a few such communications we shall soon put down the Quacks.

We thank B. C. for his communication concerning Courtenay.—"all is right."

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* This poor fellow is now at Woolwich, and has a man especially appointed to attend upon him.

The wounds, we think, were somewhat similar to that inflicted by Mr. Conelly in Hertfordshire: we always wonder when such simple operations fail.—ED.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and —WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

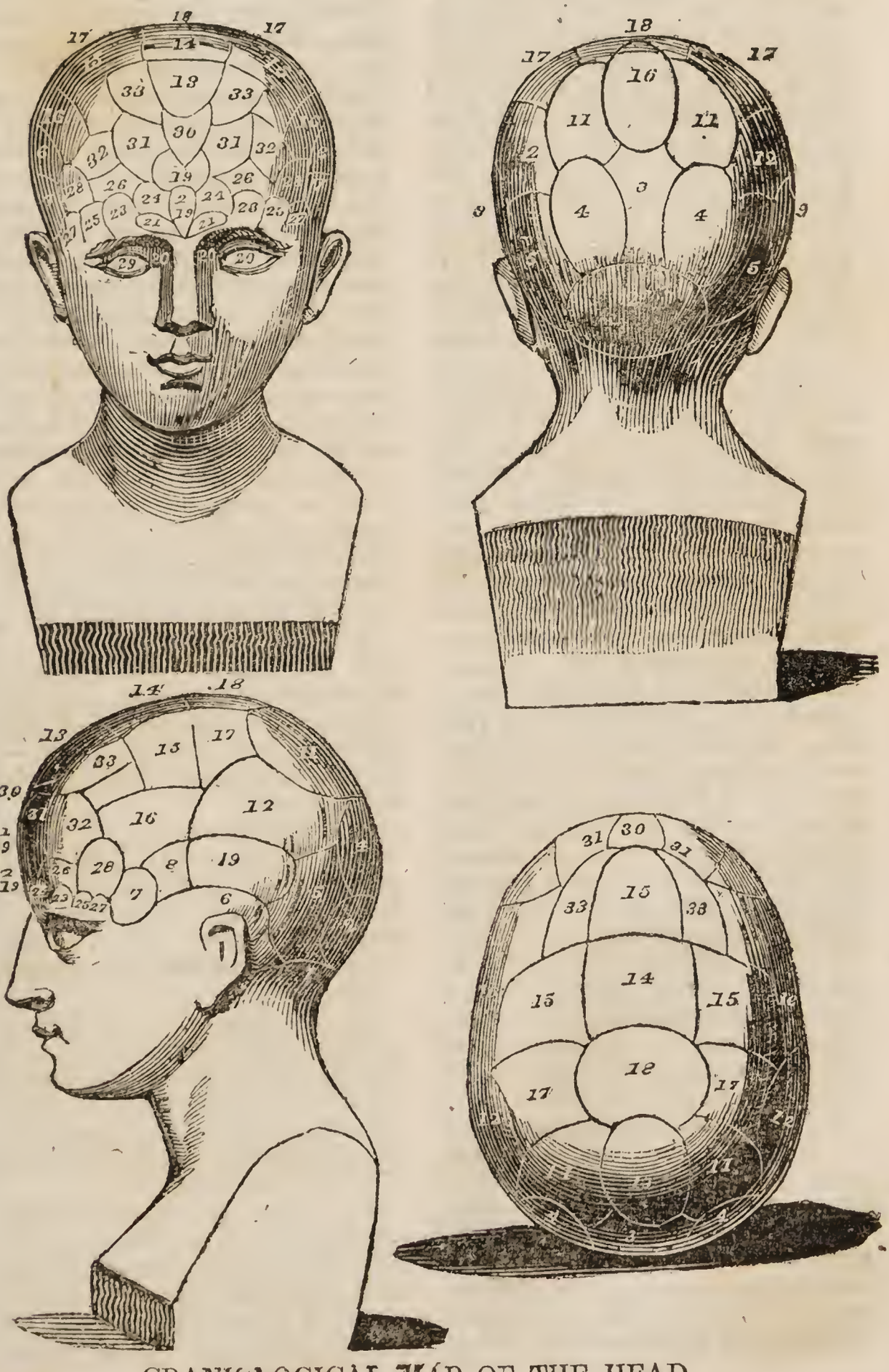
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 8.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



CRANIOLOGICAL MAP OF THE HEAD.

OBSERVATIONS UPON PHRENOLOGY.

Dr. Gall, now residing at Paris, born 1757, is the founder of this sect of philosophers. He commenced his studies at Baden, continued them at Brucksal and Strasbourg, and began his practice at Vienna. The idea which led him to his favourite theory, first sprung up in his mind while at school, from observations made upon the different dispositions and peculiar talents of his school fellows. This idea he cultivated in every way in his power, as well by attention to the sculls of animals as of men. At Vienna, in 1796, he first delivered his lectures upon this new science, which he continued to do for four or five years, when the government interdicted him, on the grounds that his philosophy was dangerous to religion. Dr. Spurzheim now joined Dr. Gall, and they both set out upon a lecturing tour through Germany and Prussia, where Dr. Gall in 1807 settled at Paris, where he still remains. His colleague Dr. Spurzheim visited England in 1814, and having published an outline of his system, proceeded upon his lecturing tour through England, Ireland and Scotland. He afterwards rejoined his colleague at Paris, and both have continued to lecture there since that period.

The science of phrenology in its present state has justly excited ridicule. The professors of it are enthusiastic to a degree; and their anxiety to forward their favourite object outpaces far the capability of their knowledge. They have come to the entrance of the cave where the treasure lies, but they cannot enter—darkness envelopes them, yet they gravely pretend to describe minutely every thing within its recesses! To make money (of which Germans are very fond) by the broaching a new doctrine which gives great promises, and but little capacity, recourse must be had to ingenuity; and hence arises all the embarrassment which is now accumulated upon a bright thought, which, by proper and honest management, might have thrown a light upon us the most delightful. Years must elapse before the heap can be removed, for the very increase of number, which the deception of phrenology displays, is only adding still more to its obscurity; and until a man like Lawrence, who combines a perfect knowledge of anatomy with a profoundly philosophic mind, shall take up the subject, and simplify it, to the narrow compass in which it stands upon reason, we can never hope for any thing but absurdity upon one side, and ridicule upon the other. Thurtell's head has completely posed these *ultra*-philosophers—a man of the most murderous disposition is found, upon examination, to possess phrenological appearances totally in opposition with this theory! This was a sad thing for the ultras of the science, who affect to describe minutely every shade of thought, as if the walls of the cranium were transparent, and the secret operations of the brain were displayed to their eyes. The following is the description of their map, which they mark out with all the precision of a land surveyor. If there were as many bumps upon the head as the figures describe (which is not impossible according to the system the head would be all *one bump*, or, as the vulgar phrase goes, *all of a lump*—as, no doubt these ultras' heads are.

Description of the Map of the Head referred to in the Plate.

1st. *Propensities.*

1. The organ of amativeness.—2. Philoprogenitiveness.—3. Concentrativeness.—4. Adhesiveness.—5. Combativeness.—6. Destructiveness.—7. Constructiveness.—8. Acquisitiveness. 9. Secretiveness.

2. *Sentiments.*

10. Self-esteem.—11. Love of Approbation.—12. Cautiousness.—13. Benevolence.—14. Veneration.—15. Hope.—16. Ideality and Wonder.—17. Conscientiousness.—18. Firmness.

3d. *Intellect.*

19. Individuality.—(1 as higher, 2 as lower.)—20. Form.—21. Size.—22. Weight.—23. Coloring.—24. Locality.—25. Order.—26. Time.—27. Number.—28. Tune.—29. Language.—30. Comparison.—31. Causality.—32. Wit.—33. Imitation.

The cavity of the head is filled completely with a substance called brain, which, if the bone be removed from above the brows by a saw, will present it in convolutions solidly folding into each other. These convolu-

tions form in the internal surface of the bone corresponding concavities, which sometimes impart a convexity on the outward surface equal to that of the brain, the bone when soft receiving this form from the surface of the brain within. That these convolutions may be distinct organs, supplying certain ramifications or functions of the mind to the general sensorium, and may be the probable mediums of transferring the effect from the external organs of sense, impressed, or compounded with their own peculiar operations, this we think extremely probable. Hence observations upon those organs or folds of the brain may be of the greatest importance; but the most attentive observer will never be able to discover such minute divisions as Gall describes. If craniological observations were confined to three or four of the most leading attributes of the mind as general data, we might then hope for success in the science, and this is only to be done by a philosophical anatomist.

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CORPULENCY.

A CERTAIN portion of adipose matter or fat is necessary to the functions of the human body, and any superabundance or deficiency in that matter must be considered a disease. The fat is secreted or deposited in appropriate cellular texture, by small vessels, in the same way that the other secretions of the body may be; and in the healthy body, when there is too much secreted, another set of little vessels called the absorbents, take it up and return it into the common mass. The proximate cause then of corpulency is either too great an action in the secreting vessels, by which they deposit a greater quantity than the absorbents, although in full power, can take away; or the absorbents may relax in their functions, while the secreting vessels continue in their proper state. When such takes place an accumulation must evidently be the consequence; hence the disease of corpulency.

There is spread over the front of the intestines a thin membrane, which, in man's healthy state, has very little fat; but in cases of corpulency is overloaded. This distends the abdomen, and pressing internally as well as externally causes difficulty of breathing. The opening of a prime Smithfield Christmas bullock amply illustrates this. The exciting cause is, in general, too free an indulgence in eating and drinking, with little exercise, and a mind free from trouble, of which our city aldermen furnish us some happy proofs, and this being known, the mode of cure becomes evident. For whenever a man wishes to be eased of the superabundant stuffing which he has given himself, let him ask whether he is willing to forego the enjoyments of the table, and become like other men around him, or continue to gourmandize and encrease his body to a dangerous as well as unseemly and tormenting size? No cure can be hoped for without a well regulated system of abstinence. There is no occasion, however, to starve oneself into good health. It is not to be done by total restriction. A gradual diminution both in the quantity, quality and frequency of meals, must be attended to; and not only this, but exercise, and the quantum of sleep.

The following plan will effect, we have no doubt, a complete cure, provided the patient be not too old, nor too long under the disease. Let the food be diminished in quantity at each meal by degrees, until brought down to a reasonable standard. Eat but of one joint, for this reason, that less can be eaten off one than more: and have the same sort of meat almost every day, *because* the stomach will not relish it so well as a change of meats. Eat but two meals—breakfast and dinner, and in the evening take tea instead of supper—eat no fat. Attach the mind to some pursuit that will engage it as much as possible. Walk daily, or work until fatigued. Let the drink be spirits and water. Take no wine nor malt liquor, and sleep only six or seven hours. To assist this regimen medicine will be desirable, and the following pills may be taken in the dose of one-third a-night, and in the morning half an ounce of Epsom salts, or twenty grains of jalap—

Of digitalis in powder, six grains.
Of calomel, thirty grains.
Of conserve of roses, sufficient to make them into twelve pills.

The most difficult part of the above is to keep from eating improperly, and as a remedy against that desire, we recommend either a glass of brandy, or smoking strong tobacco, to be used immediately before dinner, provided that either blunts the appetite: but with some it happens that both promote the appetite. It should be tried, however, and if the stomach be not staid by either, half a grain of tartar emetic should be taken half an hour before dinner, or, perhaps to the extent of a grain might be necessary: but this is according to the strength of the stomach. The objects to be principally aimed at are to keep the bowels very free, and at the same time the kidneys affected, which the above medicine will do; also to keep the body and mind from indolence.

We must now recommend to the corpulent in addition to the above an article of dress, for which we are indebted to the dandies—the stays. The pressure produced by it will promote absorption, and thereby assist materially the action of the medicine and plan of regimen laid down; but the stays must extend from one end of the abdomen to the other, and must not be so "exquisitely" laced as to oppress the breathing.

To the use of this article our most gracious sovereign owes, in a great measure, the decrease of corpulency which is manifest in his appearance; and we are convinced that if his majesty had used himself to great exercise, such as tennis ball, walking, swimming, digging, &c. he would never have had to complain of corpulency. However the power of medicine and regimen was never more fully evinced in removing the unpleasant derangement of the animal system than in the present king. He enjoys the appearance and health of a man of forty.

Corpulency should be regarded with a fearful eye by all. It is in general the effect of gluttony and indolence, alike decreasing the mind as well as the body. The Roman emperor Vitellus proved this by his life; and by his end exemplified the punishment due to its immorality. The present king of France from indulging in this vice has become odious even to himself.

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NERVOUS HEADACHES.

Having in our former numbers given our opinions upon bilious and plethoric headaches, we now proceed to that species of the disease called *nervous;* by far the most difficult to remove. It attacks weak habits of body, which have been innovated by other diseases, and particularly females. In some it is periodical, and in others has an intermission, until the mind of the patient becomes agitated by some passion.

In the cure attention must be paid more particularly to the general health than to the disease *locally*. The patient must attend to the bowels, and keep them regular,—observe to keep from irritation of the mind,—bathe the feet frequently in warm water, and above all use the shower bath: which custom may be easily attained by beginning with tepid water, and reducing the temperature at every application. Leeches have been recommended to be applied to the temples, which, if there be much throbbing, may be useful. In very debilitated habits a little wine and water will be of great service, in addition to a light wholesome diet. If the pain in the head remain for several days without relief, a blister must be put either at the temples or behind the ears, which should be repeated if the headache return. The best medicine to regulate the bowels in this complaint is the following:

Rufus's pill, one scruple,
Calomel, five grains—mix and divide into six pills, one or two a dose.

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VENEREAL HEADACHES.

Venereal headaches are often treated for ordinary headaches, and the patient goes the rounds of remedies, without the least relief, suffering the greatest torture. Some other venereal symptoms at length appear, and point out the true nature of the disease.

As an instance of this common mistake, we shall describe the case of a friend. For eight months a gentleman was tortured with headache the

most violent. Being at some distance from any town, he had not the benefit of that medical advice which was necessary; consequently he submitted his case to the village apothecary. He was bled, blistered, &c. &c. to the utmost extent of village science for five months. Despairing of being cured at home, the patient set out for London, and consulted an eminent physician who prescribed for him the Cheltenham waters. He went to Cheltenham accordingly, but, alas! his disagreeable companion was still with him. Here he remained for nearly three months, when he was attacked with sore eyes, which resisted all treatment as well as the head-ache. This affection was soon followed with excruciating nocturnal pains and swellings on the head; which at once opened the medical attendants' eyes to the true nature of the complaint. A course of mercury was instantly adopted, and in three nights the pains abated; in less than seven days he had no pain from head to foot, and in eight weeks he was again sound.

Where inveterate head-ache takes place, the patient should carefully observe whether, in the first place, he has reason to suspect a venereal taint from having had that disease previously; secondly, he should observe whether the head-ache is worse at night, than in the day; and thirdly, to examine his head, and observe whether there is any particular swelling; thus he will be enabled to ascertain whether there exists a necessity to adopt a course of mercury. In *all cases* of head-ache, which resists the ordinary treatment, we think the blue pill, given in the dose of five grains every night, might safely be resorted to, and if relief be obtained by this plan it should be followed up.

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DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Griping, Flatulency, and Acidity i the Bowels.

WHEN infants are fed upon milk, &c. or in other words brought up by hand, they are very subject to griping pains and flatulency in a greater degree than those brought up by suckling. Indigestion is the cause. An accumulation, and an acidity of the food takes place, and gives rise to a train of symptoms, such as restlessness, drawing up of the legs, vomiting, hiccups, and flatulency. The best way to proceed with a case like this, is to give an emetic to the infant made thus:—

One grain of tartar emetic,
Eight tea-spoons full of water. Mix.

Give a tea-spoon full every five minutes until the child vomits. In a few hours after this a little rhubarb and magnesia must be given to relieve the infant; during the operation of the medicines, a warm bath should be given. The child must take every second day following alternate doses of castor oil and rhubarb and magnesia. This simple plan will relieve unless convulsions set in; for the treatment of which see our preceding numbers.

As the food is generally the cause of this complaint, it should be changed, and a few carraway seeds boiled in it. For proper food see page 9.

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TREAD MILL.

Holme Sumner, and the Medical Adviser.

THIS is the talkative man that got up in the House of Commons to *make a speech*—first having given a *fortnight's notice* of his intended eloquence, and when the house opened their ears, to "devour up his discourse," he thumped the bench and solemnly declared, *that the Queen did not pay for her* TEA and SUGAR!! Proof was demanded; (a puzzler) and lo! the orator was *obliged to confess* it was only HEARSAY. Faithful to this *hearsay* logic, he came forward at the Surry meeting of magistrates with a violent frothing against *the Medical Adviser*, and concludes his abuse of it by stating that—he *never* read it!!! This absurd man's words escape from his mouth as from a chamber which they had entered by mistake; yet he will speak and speak as long as patience can bear with him. He called us "*inflammatory*," which brought us to examine our whole seven numbers; but although we searched and searched to see if any goblin had

introduced in our pages an idea which is contrary to our principles, yet we found nothing! We however suspect that Holme Sumner takes our "observation, in which we think that if the tread-mill, as it is used here was adopted in France, or Ireland, both magistrates and mill would share one common ruin." This we stated from a knowledge of the physical organization of the inhabitants of France and Ireland; and we *repeat our opinion*,—nay more, that such a man as Holmne Sumner would be the watch word. If this can be called "*inflammatory*," we shall continue our blisters in the hope of curing this inveterate malady, in spite of DOCTOR Sumner and his ignorant prescriptions.

Before we part we would ask, does Mr. Holme Sumner recollect Sir James Shaw throwing an ink bottle at any body for *impertinent assertions?*

With regard to the John Bull's report and comment upon that day's proceeding, we *rather think* that Mr. Holme Sumner did not allude to *his case*, but to the cases of *the women giving suck*, which was, as that "*orator*" said, given in the MEDICAL ADVISER. But let us not quarrel about *which is to be first*, in a race about general benevolence, lest we might jostle on the way, and both fall short. However we do not like to have our toes trodden upon.

The reports of this meeting of the Surry magistrates, have been given very incorrectly. We were at the meeting, and can therefore confidently state, that the following important omissions have taken place.

1st. A gentleman (we believe Mr. Gray) stood up and said, that Dr. Good should not be again admitted to inspect Brixton jail.

2nd. The important second circular of Mr. Peel, calling for another report of the tread mills, was read.

3rd. Mr. Briscoe declared that Mr. Webb, the Surgeon of Cold-bath-Field's, prison, told him the discipline of the wheel was *bad for soul and body*.

4th. A jailer stated that *he had power*, (this ought to be with the surgeon) to allow an encrease of provision to prisoners; and also stated that persons after a month, fell off in flesh, and were obliged to have additional allowance, (here's fattening up for feast days!)

How these omissions could have taken place we are at a loss to know; for they are of the very first importance. But there is no knowing to what mean artifices men will stoop, to carry a party point.

We have thus far dilated upon the Surry meeting, *because* that meeting was got up, we are convinced, to blot out the effect our medical appeal against the females' tread-mill had made. But all those magistrates must go again to school, and become doctors, before they can oppose our medical opinion.

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ONSLOW AND DRUMMOND, SURRY MAGISTRATES AND WOMEN HATERS.

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THESE men have signed a report on the Guildford tread-mill, evidently got up to endeavour to counteract our statement of a *second* woman *suckling* being sent to their tread-mill, (for the account appeared in no other paper:) and how have they done it? Let us see, by an extract from that precious document of mer overbearing assertion. The passages are marked in italics, which allude to the *Medical Adviser*.

"It cannot have escaped the attention of the members of the court, that incessant efforts have been made, and are still making, to prejudice the public mind against the modern system of punishing criminals by labour on the tread-wheel; that, in addition to and in support of the general clamour excited against the application of that system of punishment to females, *a strong and pathetic appeal* has been made lately to the sympathies of the British public, against the practice of subjecting women with infants at their breasts to this discipline: and two cases of alleged cruelty have been held up to public execration, in which the conduct of the magistrates of the bench

at Guildford, and of the visiting magistrates of this house, has been reprobated, and the *higher authorities called upon to interpose and liberate the sufferers from torture, and dismiss the committing magistrates from the future exercise of their functions:* and a strong call has been made upon the surgeon attached to this establishment to give, through the medium of the public press, explanatory particulars relative to the cases alluded to. Your committee have not felt themselves amenable to calls made upon them through such channels; and having disapproved of former communications made by Mr. Jackson to the editor of a public print, have felt it their duty peremptorily to restrict him in this, and all future cases, from making any reply to calls of this nature, except from the Secretary of State, the Houses of Parliament, or this court, unless by the special authority of the visiting magistrates for the time being. They nevertheless have felt it their duty to inform themselves of the facts of the cases alluded to; and, for the guidance of their own future conduct in this respect, to examine Mr. Jackson, not only as to these particular cases, but to require his opinion as to the effects likely to result from the infliction of labour on the wheel upon women similarly circumstanced; and lest the minds of any members of the court should have been influenced by the high-coloured inflammatory misrepresentations thus exhibited to the public, or that the court should think it right to correct the false impressions the statements made in these prints are calculated to (and as it appears have for their object to) make upon the public mind, to the prejudice of this most efficient system of corrective punishment, they have prepared and are ready to exhibit it, if it shall be the pleasure of the court to call for it, a supplementary report on the two cases together with the opinion of the surgeon specially as to them, and generally as to the application of work on the wheel to women suckling infants. On their own behalf, however, they feel it due to themselves, and do not hesitate to declare, that the result of their inquiry has perfectly satisfied their own minds, that what has been done in the commitment and punishment of these women, has not only been in strict conformity to the directions of the statute, but has violated no feeling of humanity, by which they are sensible it is their duty, as it is their inclination, to regulate their conduct in the execution of that statute; and so fully are they satisfied in this point, that, until an alteration shall be made in the law to restrict them from so doing, they will continue to execute its provisions in all cases where (as they think of the present cases) nothing in the actual state of health or strength of the offenders would warrant the exercise of their discretion in mitigation of the severity they enjoin

(Signed) G. W. ONSLOW, } Visiting
H. DRUMMOND. } Magistrates

1st. They have felt it their duty to restrict Mr. Jackson, *their own* Surgeon, from communicating with the press!—Admirable inquisitors! *Let out no secrets*

2nd. They nevertheless *thought it necessary* to examine Mr. Jackson, upon the effects of "*this most efficient system of corrective punishment,*" and they are ready forsooth to exhibit this—*their Surgeon's report*—if the court should wish a report of the two cases of women, which we commented upon, and also this *their own Surgeon's*, upon the effect of the tread-mill in general on WOMEN SUCKLING INFANTS!!! Good God—Who is this Surgeon? and what sort of men must they be, who could thus undertake to defend the practice of putting women SUCKLING INFANTS to the tread-wheel.

3rd. They conclude, like Goldsmith's schoolmaster, with their own argument—and their only one; that it is their determination to persist through thick and thin, and like Shylock, will have their pound of flesh, as long as the law will suffer them to have it. Can such men *like women?* O! Mr. Onslow and Mr. Drummond, as men we hope for you—but as magistrates we pity you.

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MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

THE French papers give an account of a woman who was delivered, *twice in twelve months*, of three chil-

dren, at each lying in, making six in one year.

The operation for removing the thigh at the hip-joint has been performed, last week, by Sir Astley Cooper, upon a man at Guy's Hospital. This, not the most scientific operation in surgery; it is only entitled to be called a great operation on account of the magnitude of the part removed, and the great probability of death immediately succeeding it, from such a quantity of the animal frame being removed. The military surgeons do not think so much of it; however, Sir Astley is a *good carver*, and *hits a joint* admirably.

Dempster, the man who swallowed the knife, is said to be coming to town. The *Carlisle Journal* adds, that Sir Astley Cooper said long ago that an operation might be performed upon him. Query. Did Sir Astley take the hint from us, for we proposed an instrument for removing the knife, anything like which is not in the history of surgery? We have brought the idea now to a mature state, and can fairly presume upon the success of the instrument.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

In the fifth number of "the Medical Adviser," you gave a description of an apparatus, (accompanied by a drawing,) for the removal of poison from the stomach, as invented by Mr. Reed, gardener to a gentleman in Kent; and while I am willing to concede to him all the merit of it, as far as his improvement on the common syringe goes, still I beg to inform you that the public are indebted to Mr. Edward Jukes, surgeon, at Pimlico, not only for being the first to invent the tube, but also to put its applicability to the test of experiment, by drinking several drams of laudanum: and as a proof of the correctness of my statement, I beg to refer you to the number for May, 1822, of the Medical and Physical Journal, in which you will find a minute detail of all the circumstances connected with the subject, which was re-copied into most of the daily papers at that time.

I am surprised that Mr. Reed, should have the effrontery to stand forth as the sole inventor of the apparatus, when he very well knows that his specification to obtain the patent only applies to his syringe, as applicable to the watering of garden plants, to the extinguishing of fire in houses, and to the administration of injections; all of which purposes it well answers.

Mr. Jukes invented the tube two years ago, (as before stated,) and merely applied instead of the syringe a large elastic gum bottle, as represented by fig. 2. This is filled with water, and pressure being made on it, its contents are easily injected into the stomach; this being effected, it is allowed to recover its former position, by its own natural elasticity, when, upon a simple principle in hydraulics, it immediately becomes re-filled.

Since that time, he has been in the habit of employing a common syringe as represented by fig. 1. That answers the purpose equally well; and to add to his merit, he has now discovered that the tube, (alone) letter H, introduced into the stomach, will effectually perform the office of a syphon: an instrument in daily use amongst publicans to remove spirits from one cask to another.

Mr. Ward, of Nottingham, who so promptly saved the life of a woman, far advanced in pregnancy, purchased Mr. Jukes's apparatus of Gill, the manufacturer; and I know of no event more calculated to interest our best feelings, than a discovery of so much importance to mankind. It was a desideratum in medical science, and humanity must triumph at the result; while the most pleasurable emotions will naturally be excited in the bosom of the inventor, who heroically risked his own life, to save that of others.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

James Morss Churchill.

Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

13, *Princes-street, Leicester-square.*

HYDROSTATICS.

(Continued.)

SMOKE is forced up a chimney by the air in the room passing to the rarefied air in the chimney, hence the bath or patent stoves, contracting the fire-place, obliges the air to rush in with more violence, and thereby it overcomes more effectually any wind that forces the smoke down the chimney. —Kitchen or other open chimnies, are very liable to smoke, with winds coming over or bosoming against any taller house, church, tree, &c. because the smoke rising very slow and languidly by its specific lightness in the open air, or wide chimnies, is easily puffed down by wind, if a ventilator or a feathered covering do not prevent it.

If a stick be counterpoised on a scale-beam by water, and after that immersed in a vessel full of water, it will cause so much of the water to flow over the brim as will be supplied by that in the opposite scale, hence it is evident a ship displaces just so much water in the sea as is equal to its own weight and cargo, and hence also the strength of wood may be judged of; for if a piece of oak of a foot long be immersed in a narrow vessel full of water, it will be found to sink about eight-tenths of its length, beech about seven-tenths, mahogany seven-tenths, &c.

A solid body, heavier than its bulk of water, will lose just so much of its weight when suspended in it as its bulk of water weighs, but the weight lost by the solid is gained by the fluid, hence if the weight of a body in air be divided by what it loses in a fluid, the quotient will show how much heavier it is than its bulk of that fluid, or its specific gravity: by this trial pure gold is found to be 19,637 times as heavy as its bulk of water; guinea gold 17,793 times as heavy; quicksilver 14 times; lead 11,325 times; standard silver 10,535: copper 9; plate brass 8; steel 7,85; iron 7,645, and block tin 7,32; a cubic inch of brass loses 233½ grains of its aërial weight in water; in proof spirits it loses 235 grains; therefore a cubic inch of water weighs 233½ and a cubic inch of proof spirits 235 grains, and the specific gravities of pure spirits, proof spirits and water, are as 840 and 1000, from hence may be conceived the great use of the hydrostatic balance.

A pipe fixed four times as deep below the surface of a fluid as another of the same diameter, will discharge twice as much in the same time; if nine times as deep, it will discharge thrice as much; if 16 times as deep, four times as much, &c. agreeable to the square foot of the depth; and the velocity with which a fluid spouts at any depth below the surface, is equal to that which a body let fall that height would acquire; pipes also discharge a fluid, when placed at equal depths below the surface, agreeable to the squares of their diameters; i. e. a pipe twice the diameter of another will discharge four times as much of the fluid in the same time; thrice the diameter, nine times as much; four times the diameter, sixteen times as much.

Fluids press or resist, according to their density, and hence a boat will carry more on salt than fresh water: the hydrometer shews this very perfectly, it is buoyed up by salt and water mixed with vinegar, &c. but sinks in wine, spirits, &c. according to their lightness, and hence it is used for trying the lightness or strength of liquors.

A syphon acts agreeably to that equal state which nature effects through all her operations; it will not run unless the weight of water in the outer leg be greater than that of the inner leg above the water in which it is immersed; as the water falls, therefore, from the outer leg, it will make a continued vacuum, and of course the pressure of the atmosphere on the surface of the water will force it through the syphon in a continued stream, if kept free from that lodgment of air, which frequently takes place on the top of the syphon, by the Tantabus cup, and fountain at command. The cause of intermitting springs is explained thus—

Clouds being attracted by the mountains, give a continued supply to those reservoirs of water, which are frequently found in the bowels of

mountains, and which supply springs in general, but should the channel from one of those reservoirs be formed like a syphon, of course the spring which proceeds from it will ebb and flow like those in Derbyshire, Berkshire, &c.

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AMPUTATION OF THE ARM PROPERLY PREVENTED.

In the waste of war, there is not any thing so deplorable, as the carelessness of him who has charge of the wounded—the poor fellows whom the thunder of the enemy has lacerated, are, by the best feelings of humanity, entitled to the most attentive care from those to whom their country entrusts them. Sometimes, however, the hurry of business, and sometimes, alas! the ignorance of the surgeon, completes that destruction which the enemy began. The following case will go far in proving this: it is extracted from a military surgeon's note book:—

"Having obtained a great degree of confidence with the French wounded officers from cutting a ball out of the thigh of a captain of artillery, and speaking, as I did, the French language, one of these unfortunate men seized me by the coat, as I passed his bed, and requested me, *pour l'amour de Dieu*, to look at his arm. I did, and saw that he had received a musquet ball at the joint of the elbow, which however was not dangerous; for the wound was healing, an anchylosis having taken place, by which the ultimate loss to the patient, would be the *use* of the *joint*. 'Oh,' said he, 'they are going to take off my arm.' 'Stay, my friend,' said I, 'this, if I can prevent, they shall not.' 'Oh, Sir, the operation is to be performed tomorrow, and I will have no objection if you give me your opinion, that it ought to be done.'—'Then,' said I, do not permit the operation to be performed unless you see me present. I will save your arm.' The tears flowed down upon the poor sufferer's cheeks, he squeezed my hand, and said he would do just as I wished. I was not absent at the hour appointed for the operation, and although the patient was not in my charge, and I was but a *junior*, I felt that if I could lay down fair reasons for the saving of a fellow creature's limb, and preventing the tortures of an operation like that intended, I could meet with no reasonable grounds of blame from my superiors. The officer was brought out and placed upon the table for operation, his eyes all the time anxiously turned towards me. The Staff Surgeon, Mr. D*****, took the knife, and without any ceremony proceeded to do that which, in his mind, was necessary. I begged the gentleman to stop until I examined the elbow. This request was complied with. But on my declaring that I saw no cause for amputation, the Staff Surgeon's countenance assumed an expression which any one could interpret into 'pray, sir, why do you interfere?' I persisted: and I asked him *why* he thought the operation necessary, to which he replied that he dreaded *mortification!* Now the wound had been inflicted three weeks before, a free discharge had followed, and a union of the bones of the upper and fore arm had taken place! 'Mortification!' said I, and a smile upon the countenances of the surgeons around prevented a further reply. Doctor Halliday (who was physician to the Duke of Clarence,) was present, and to him I owe the decision in favour of my opinion. He retired with Mr. D*****, the Staff Surgeon, into another room for a few minutes, (during which time the poor sufferer leaned with all his hopes upon my arm,) and returning said that the operation should be deferred. IT WAS DEFERRED FOR EVER; for I took the poor fellow round from Ostend to Dunkirk myself, three weeks after, and delivered him over to his Government PERFECTLY WELL.

"Had Sir James M'Gregor been present at this prpceeding Mr. Staff Surgeon D*****, would not now be a DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF HOSPITALS."

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TO DETECT POISONING BY PRUSSIC ACID.

Of late years a medicine has been introduced, called *hydro-cyanic*, o

Prussic acid. As a remedy in many diseases its merits cannot be doubted; nor have they yet been fully developed. As a poison it is equally powerful, and so sudden in its effects, that medical aid cannot avail, if once taken into the stomach; on this account it becomes most important to know how to ascertain, after death, in cases of such poisoning, whether this acid has been the cause. The following mode will be found effective. Let the blood found in the ventricles of the heart be collected, also a portion of the fluid which may be found in the head, the abdomen and the chest, and a little of the contents of the stomach, add some distilled water and agitate the mixture for some time, then filter the liquid, keeping the whole at a low temperature. To this filtered liquor add a few drops of the solution of pure potass in alcohol; then add a few drops of the solution of sulphate of iron; and if a precipitate of the colour of terra sienna fall down, which changes to a bluish green on the addition of a little sulphuric acid, and which colour, on being exposed to the atmosphere becomes a fine blue, the death has been occasioned by *Prussic acid.*

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THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. II.

The Lectures.

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It is not until after a long residence in France, that a stranger can appreciate the excellence of the method with which they conduct their public lectures. An Englishman, or a German, familiar with the French language would cry out at first against the superficial manner of the academies, yet upon a little attentive observation, they will find, that they teach better in France, than either in England or in Germany. In fact, a French professor thinks less of composing a treatise *ex professo*, on the subject he is to teach, than to point out to his pupils, the best means to learn quickly and effectively. His duty appears to him to be the analysing of the mass of facts which the science possesses, and to shew the spirit of the subject, concentrating the opinions which the pupil is to adopt on the faith of his master.

In France a public course of lectures is a critical analysis. The professors pass lightly over those dogmas of the science, which are generally known and adopted, but dwell with attention upon those points that deserve to be opposed or changed, improved or cleared up. This method, and perhaps that happy facility which the French possess above other nations, enables their professors to lecture without the aid of written notes. They preserve that simplicity and perspicuity of style, that instructs without fatiguing the mind. In all the English Universities, the professors read their lectures from a written paper, and burden their subjects with complexity, and it is therefore difficult to find a good lecturer; one that can for an hour chain down the attention of his audience, by the interest of his discourse.

The auditory at French lectures are composed of three classes. The first and the least numerous, comprehend those who have no claim to exercise the profession of medicine and no wish; but who attend the School of Medicine either out of curiosity or from the desire to possess some little general knowledge of the medical sciences. The second class forms nearly the greatest part of the auditors—they are the pupils who aspire to the degree of doctor: and the third class is composed of the pupils of *L'Ecole Pratique;* of which we shall now speak.

There was in the Medical School of Paris an annual meeting, for the purpose of naming a certain number of students to the places of internal or external pupils, in all the civil hospitals. Beside the facility which was thus given to instruction, the places were accompanied by other advantages, such as board and lodging for the internal pupils, and to the *operateur* in chemisty, a pecuniary compensation. The pupils in Anatomy and Surgery, also received, free of expence, dead bodies for dissection, and operation. At the end of each year prizes were distributed, consisting of silver medals and books. The examinations were

conducted verbally, and the answers of the pupils given extempore. But the beauty of this institution appeared in the election of men for the professors chairs. The candidate for each chair, was obliged to write upon the science or art he proposed to teach, and give further proof of his capability. If a candidate, for example, aspired to the chemical chair, he was obliged to furnish a list of cases treated by himself, with a journal of his prescriptions, &c., and he who aspired to be lecturer on surgery must perform a great operation before the meeting. The meeting concluded by reading the candidate's thesis, which he is obliged publicly to defend; and thus his merit becomes demonstrated. On this the fortunate candidate was proclaimed.

But this excellent institution is now no more. The meetings are abolished; the places are filled up by simple nomination, and national interest must now give way to that of individuals.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

IF you think the following recollections suited to your useful and interesting publication, I beg you will, in dearth of better articles, use them. The species of quackery they refer to is now almost exploded; the boldness however of its professors, and the extraordinary apparent effects produced during its operation, are calculated to excite the astonishment and admiration of the unthinking,—I allude to animal magnetism.

Some years since I was prompted by curiosity to accept an invitation to visit a professor of this art, and witness its display. His name was Bailis, and he kept a public house and tea gardens, the Adam and Eve, at West Ham, in Essex, where he carried on the various dealings in ale, cyder, perry, tea, coffee, tobacco, &c. *and animal magnetism*; which latter art he practised for the cure of persons affected with fits.

At the appointed time I was ushered into the parlour, in which there were about half-a-dozen patients, all females, a few of their friends, and two or three visitors drawn thither by curiosity like myself: the patients being seated in a row, the operator looking very grave, and muttering some unintelligible jargon to himself, fixed his eyes with intensity upon those of the first patient in the order of seats, making circular motions with his hands resembling wheels in wheels revolving round the head, and before the face and breast of the patient; these motions he continued for about five minutes, or until the crisis as he termed it arrived; this was indicated by the patient falling into an apparent gentle slumber, then passing to the next in rotation, and so on to each in turn, he made similar motions with his hands, until the whole (with the exception of one young girl, who did not appear to be the least affected) had seriatim thus apparently been manually persuaded to the arms of Morpheus, or rather his major-domo, Somnus. The professor's labours having thus far been crowned with success, he left the room, as he afterwards told me, to unburthen himself of his weighty powers.

Suspecting confederacy, I was desirous of ascertaining whether the patients' sleep was real or affected, and entered into conversation with the company, and the young lass whom I before mentioned, still remained awake, making such ludicrous observations upon the apparent dormant part of the company, that if they had heard them, I supposed they could not refrain from expressing their cognizance by risibility; their countenances remained unaltered—I might as well have preached a sermon to the corporation of London against gluttony from the top of the monument; I then tried other experiments (by the leave of their friends) such as tickling the nose and other parts of the face, which only produced an occasional slight involuntary emotion of the muscles; nay, Sir, to one among them, a blooming damsel of about eighteen (I was then, Mr. Editor, young, gallant and gay,) I ventured that salutation which agreeably to accustomed usage entitled me to a pair of gloves; my gallantry or pre-

sumption, call it which you will, was unheeded by the fair, the effect was alone felt by me; in about a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, the patients awoke, and upon being questioned, described themselves to have experienced no other sensation than first drowsiness, and afterwards a refreshing slumber: I had a good deal of conversation with the father of one of the patients, who had been subject to fits for years, a girl then about fifteen years of age, and he asserted that his daughter had received much benefit from the treatment she had experienced from mine host of the inn, and upon a review of the circumstances, I think it very possible that a beneficial effect might in some cases be thus produced, without giving credence to any extraordinary power in the professor.

Fits, which are frequently involuntary actions of the body, and independent of the mind, rarely occur whilst the mental faculties are actively employed; thus fits of coughing, sneezing, yawning, hiccups, &c. may be generally prevented or stayed by any strong impulse of the mind. In the cases above witnessed, the patients had their minds strongly worked upon by the *appearance* of the operator, an old gaunt figure, dressed in the cut of the early part of the last century, his affected, pompous, and mystical phraseology, his basilisk-like eyes intently fixed, and the peculiar continual circular motion of his hands, inducing giddiness, stupor and sleep to any person looking intently at it; thus whilst this operation was going on, the mind of the patients would be so deeply affected as to prevent the involuntary motion or fit of the body for the time: the mind would also in all probability be excited some time before, and continue excited some time after the operation, during which time the fits would probably be prevented, add to which (no trifling assistance) a pleasant recreative walk, breathing pure air, (most of the patients were from London) increasing the patients' strength, and tending to diminish the frequency of such fits. I should add, that the professor was in possession of an electrical machine which was occasionally used in aid of his *magnetic* powers. In justice to Mr Bailis, for this was the name of the landlord of our first parents, his charge was very moderate, only one shilling each patient, (including a run in his garden, and a pick in his orchard, no trifling make weight to young cockneys); indeed he avowed he only continued to follow the practice to prove the existence of the power he possessed, and used to lament that when he died he knew no person worthy to take up his mantle: a flash of hope, I remember, darted across me at the moment, like an electric spark; alas! other pursuits, and less daring researches have for ever clapt an extinguisher upon it. I never crossed the threshold of the secret, I merely peeped in at the loop holes.

NEB. DIRPE.

Lime Street, January 12, 1824.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

MRS. JOHNSON, THE CHILD-KILLER. *

"O! Death! thou art a soothing"—*Syrup!*

"BALM" we would have said; but, truth and Mrs. Johnson spoiled our poetic flourish.

By the bye, before we proceed to examine the matter now before us, let us beg to apologize to the lady for the length of time we have kept her, as it were, in hot water. We are perfect Sangrados' in these cases for such applications are marvellously serviceable to that spreading disease, called quackery. We say again that we are sorry we kept her so long, and that her maid servant has had so many walks to the booksellers at the Turnpike for her

* This epithet is fully deserved, as the following letter, selected from more than twenty, will prove:—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

For God's sake do all you can to expose and hunt out of London that presuming destroyer, Mrs. Johnson. I was induced from her advertisement to give her soothing syrup to my poor child then teething, and convulsions seized the infant soon after. I unfortunately repeated the dose, in the hope of stopping the disease, but O Sir, my little baby died in six hours after. Your excellent remark first opened my eyes to my own folly. Would to God I had seen your publication before, I should not now lament the loss of my child.

...emain, Sir, &c.

esteemed "*Medical Adviser.*" Had we the least notion that the *doctress* admired our publication so much, we hould have certainly set all our printers, their devils and presses to work, in order to get out our numbers before the usual time. We trust, however, that if she has any fault to find with *this* number, it is that of being rather *too soon.*

We have examined this woman's "soothing syrup" in the best of all possible ways—we have taken it ourselves first in small doses, and these repeated, until we found the nature of it by its effects. We now solemnly declare that we experienced the strong sensations which narcotics produce, and more particularly opium, a sense of tightness across the breast, drowsiness, followed by an agreeable sense of forgetfulness, which symptoms were succeeded by a violent headache, pateness, and an oppressive lassitude. This state continued for about twelve hours. We can, therefore, fairly observe that the effects upon infants must be most dangerous, and we have described them in page 9, which when our readers refer to it, will, we trust, deter parents from giving soothing syrup to their infants, and every parent should read the remarks alluded to, in order to put them on their guard against all idle nurses who prefer quiet to their proper employment, and so *soothe* the child to death.

Mrs. Johnson, by her marauding in this "medicine," has been able to push herself from poverty and obscurity into an elegant house in the City Road. This reminds us of an expression of Cook's, when playing at Liverpool during the time of the slave trade: the audience were hissing him for something or other, which irritated the tragedian, when he clenched his fist, and emphatically delivered this retort, 'There is not a brick in all your town that is not cemented with the blood of an African!"—How applicable this pithy sentence to this *she* quack! We have only to substitute "infant" for "African" and it comes quite home to her. Good God! can it be possible? Any one to read our observations thus far, might be inclined to think that although this woman deserves reprobation, the full extent of our latter insinuation is not to be believed; but how lamentable it is to think that THIS IS FACT—TRUTH BEYOND A DOUBT. What difference is there in destroying a poor helpless babe with the knife, or with the "soothing syrup?" That this syrup destroys them, there is not a doubt, and that it destroys them with the WILL and CONNIVANCE of many a lazy nurse and UNNATURAL MOTHER, is but too true.—LOOK TO THIS HUSBANDS! and whenever you see your wives using Mrs. Johnson's soothing syrup, suspect their sense, or their HONESTY. We have known some elegant women to be great advocates for the administration of opium to their infants in whatever shape it may assume; whether syrup of poppies, Dalby's carminative, or the "soothing syrups;" but those women are fond of quiet nights while in bed, and idle gadding in the day time; they admire those horrid drugs for *their own ease*, and they recommend them to their neighbours, who use them from *better motives* than themselves—their children go either quietly off or with convulsions; but the *cause* never could be the *dear* "*soothing*," no: "poor little soul, had the convulsions, bless you,"—or "the inward fits"—or any thing else they like to say, and therefore it *never could be* the drugs it had been dosed with! No, that "*they are sure* did the child good—but it *was* to go, and even MRS. JOHNSON could not save it—pretty dear!" When are the people of London to be wise; they talk of barbarism in other countries—while this credulous reliance upon every advertising blackguard proves the barbarous state of the mind more than cannibalism. Savages only destroy human *dead* bodies, our people waste human *life.*

A friend of ours happened to reside nearly opposite to this petticoat doctor, and some short time ago his attention was aroused by the babbling of voices, and the loud clap of a door. Being attracted to the window, he saw a poor woman coming out of Mrs. Johnson's front gate, wringing her

hands, and crying thus aloud, while a number of people stopped to hear her —" Oh ! may the curse o' the crows light on you Misteress Johnson, you an' yours, this holy an' blessed Monday morning—*Soothing* syrup indeed! The d——l run away with it ! if it wasn't for it my poor little baby of an infant wouldn't now be lying at home a could corpse (here she cried and sobbed aloud.) And there's your Christmas box! O the d——l shoot your Christmas box, I say, I lost my child by it." The crowd now increased, and learning the nature of the affair, wanted but little stimulus to take summary vengeance upon the quack. However, a peace officer having interfered, and the crowd having first contributed to the afflicted mother, dispersed.

By the " Christmas box " the poor woman meant Mrs. Johnson's advertisement, headed with those words, in which she promised to give a *real Christmas box* to the poor, namely, a bottle of her soothing syrup, observing that each person must be recommended by a "*payable*" sort of person : thus the impostor lays her snare ; for those who recommend may have children, or their friends have, and so she supplies them, for which they pay, even unto death.

Press of matter obliges us to leave off this she quack before justice can be done to her ; but when we have taken a review of all the quacks, we shall " go the round " again and again; nor shall they receive mercy from us till some member of parliament seals them down by bringing in a bill against their baneful effects. Eady, Jordans, Twynam, Cameron, Lynch and Johnson, although passed by shall not be forgotten ; and we again solicit all the information possible from our readers, relative to those quack, and their brotherhood.

—

COURTNEY, THE QUACK.

PREVIOUS to this " Gentleman " being shewn to his proper place in our columns, we beg leave to introduce him to our readers by the following letter. A. W. S., who asked our advice upon him, will read it with interest.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I beg leave to acquaint you that the fellow calling himself Dr. Courtney, No. 6, Robert Street, Adelphi, is as arrant a quack as either Jordan or Eady ; a young friend of mine, *thinking* he had a stricture, went to him for assistance, (having seen his pamphlet on stricture,) he examined him, and said it was a serious case, and demanded his utmost skill and attention, and it being their mutual interests to perform the cure as speedily as possible, he must have 30*l.* for the cure. My friend became alarmed at the sum, it being totally out of his power to raise it. The fellow squeezed a sovereign out of him for his advice, but has not seen him again. Upon application to a respectable surgeon, the case was of the slightest nature, and in two or three days was perfectly cured, it being simply a trifling weakness. For the exposure of Jordan and Eady, society are much indebted to you ; I will assist you as far as lies in my power.

Yours respectfully,

* B. C.

P. S. Upon referring to a printed circular of the society of guardians for the protection of trade, the secretary says " I am directed to inform you that a person calling himself Dr. Courtney, of No. 6, Robert Street, Adelphi, who is connected with Richard Blachford, mentioned to you some time ago, formerly beadle of the goldsmiths' company, is reported to this society as improper to be proposed to be balloted as a member thereof ! !"

I hope this will answer the enquiries of A. W. S.

—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

SIR,

I am sure you will agree with me, that tests for distinguishing oxalic acid from Epsom salts, to be of real utility ought to be as simple as possible, and the difference so strongly marked after being submitted to the test, that no one can possibly

---

* We thank B. C. and hope he will give us a little more information.

mistake them. Perhaps you will give publicity in your valuable work to the following.

Place a small quantity on a shovel and hold it over the fire; if it should be oxalic acid it will entirely evaporate, leaving only a brown stain; if Epsom salts, a substance will remain resembling chalk.

I am Sir,
Yours respectfully,
F. Z.

Cornhill, Jan. 19th, 1824.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Swallowing Snails for Consumption of the Lungs.

THIS can be of no possible use. The disease is in the lungs; and snails cannot so alter the chyle which forms the blood, as to have any specific effect upon the ulceration in the lungs.

Bathing the Feet and Legs in Warm Water at Night.

THIS is the sheet anchor with the old women in all cases of colds, coughs, hoarseness, pains and head-aches. An excellent remedy it is; for in the above-mentioned complaints inflammation or undue determination of blood to the part affected is present. Bathing the legs and feet excite the blood downwards, and by sympathy with the skin promotes perspiration.

After this operation, the patient should *instantly* go to bed.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Ointment for Cutaneous Eruptions

Diluted citron ointment,
Common lard—equal parts.
Mix them well.

The parts should be touched with the ointment every night.

A good Liniment for Pains at the Joints, Rheumatic, or otherwise.

Spirits of camphor, two ounces
Liquor of ammonia, half an ounce.
Oil of rosemary, fifteen drops.
Mix.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A YORKSHIRE FARMER, *shall be attended to: but we fear it will be difficult to substitute any thing for tea better than roasted grain. We shall notice the points he mentions, the first opportunity.*

T. S. is informed that we never heard of "digestive" cigars: nor do we think they can have any digestive quality. We have not yet room for our opinions upon tobacco.

Let W. B. suffuse his head every morning in cold water, by having it poured from above. Let him also take the purging pills, in page 32, twice a week; one, two, or three for a dose, as may be required. Let him drink very little liquors, and that diluted. The pills must be persisted in for a month at least. Let him live moderately, and sleep with his head high.

WM. CLEAR, *should examine his throat by a looking glass, and inform us whether there is a sore or not. In the meantime let him use the following for a week. Take twelve grains of calomel and twelve grains of antimonial powder made into six pills, one each night. Let him keep from cold.*

OBSERVER *is requested to wait until he sees Webb's opinion in answer to Mr. Peel's circular. If he says that the tread-mill is fit for females, his letter shall be published.*

J. H. L. MINOR, R. M. D. *and others next week.*

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's-court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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INCUBUS, OR NIGHT-MARE.

THE painter who designed the picture from which the engraving of the present number is copied, has given a fine and expressive idea of what is termed night-mare: he must have felt the disease himself to have hit upon so happy an idea—it is a vivid picture of the sufferer's dream.

This distressing malady, although said not to have been known to Hippocrates, nevertheless afflicted his countrymen, who called it εφιαλτης. The Romans called it *Incubus*, amongst whom it was so formidable that many people died * of it. Death from night-mare in this country is not a frequent occurrence, although when the paroxysms become severe, we believe there is always great danger. We have hardly a case recorded in England where it has proved fatal; but this can be easily accounted for—people are frequently found dead in their beds, but the cause is never set down to this complaint; apoplexy, or bursting a blood-vessel, is generally declared to be the cause. The late Doctor Polydore * was, we have little

* See Cœlius Aurelianus lib. i. cap. iii. de Incubone

* This young Physician was the author of several published poems, as well as an ingenious, though visionary, essay on positive pleasure.

doubt, a victim to Incubus. When we knew him at Norwich, he was a sufferer from it, and consulted us upon the use of opium in the disease, of which, in the doses he mentioned, we disapproved. It will be recollected that suspicious circumstances attended the manner of his death—he was found lying on his breast in the morning dead, and upon a table in the room where he lay was a glass which evidently had contained opium and water. It is not unlikely that he resorted to his own peculiar mode of treating his disease, and by that means lost his life.

All countries have attributed this affection to supernatural agency—dæmons and fairies alternately shared the blame, and even now, many who suffer from it suppose themselves bewitched. Modern physicians have taken but too little notice of it, and the example which Mr. Waller, a surgeon of the navy, set them, has not been followed. That gentleman's treatise stands alone. Dr. Darwin's opinion upon the cause of night-mare is, that it is nothing more than sleeping too sound, a mere suspension of volition while the action of breathing is uninterrupted. Very little consideration will prove this to be false; those people who have felt the paroxysm know but too well that they *cannot* breathe, but are under the impression that they have a weight upon the breast threatening immediate suffocation—they also know that they are not quite asleep: so much for the philosopher of the plants. There cannot be a doubt of the *immediate* cause of this malady.—It is a suspension of power in the muscles of *in*spiration; the weight, the want of breathing, and the sense of suffocation, prove this, and a still greater proof is, that if the sufferer can only speak one syllable, the paroxysm is at an end. The word cannot be spoken without breath—breath cannot come out from the lungs until it is brought in, nor brought in without the action of the muscles of the breast and ribs—nothing can be more simple than the cause—it is the temporary paralysis of the pectoral muscles through the medium of the nerves which supply them with feeling. What is the remote cause, or the cause of this suspension of power, is not so easily defined. It may be from contraction in some of the great pulmonary vessels, or it may be affected in the source of the pectoral nerves through the brain, or through sympathy of the nerves of the stomach, or liver and spleen. The latter organs are decidedly interested in producing the disease, for it is always accompanied by derangement of them.

To those people who are afflicted with this horrid malady, it will be a source of comfort to receive advice upon the subject; for unhappily, if they apply to a physician, their complaint seldom meets with due attention, from an habitual belief that no great danger, and but little inconvenience, attends it; while the patient himself believes he is incurable. That there is suffering in this complaint all who have felt it will testify—their bed is not a bed of repose—they return to it with horror—sleep has no balm for them—the greatest of human comforts:—no: they put their head upon the pillow to suffer, and they rise unrefreshed, while in every paroxysm they suffer almost death. That there is danger, our observations above, will go far in proving, in which we are strongly borne out by Mr. Waller in the following. "It is a very well known fact that this affection is by no means free from danger. I have known one instance in which a paroxysm of it certainly proved fatal, and I have heard of several others. A young man of sober habits, about thirty years of age, by trade a carpenter, had been all his life subject to severe attacks of night-mare, during the paroxysm he frequently struggled violently, and vociferated loudly. Being at Norwich on some business, which detained him there several weeks, he one night retired to bed in apparent good health, whether he had eaten supper, or what he had taken previously to going to bed, or during the day, I cannot now remember; in the night or towards morning, he was heard by some of the family in the house where he lodged to vociferate and groan, as he had been accustomed to do during the paroxysms of night-mare, but as he was, after no great length of time, perfectly quiet, no person went to his assistance; in the

morning however, it was soon observed that he did not, as usual, make his appearance, and on some person going into his room, he was found dead, having thrown himself, by his exertion and struggle, out of bed, with his feet, however, still entangled among the bedclothes. This patient, and the circumstances attending his death, were very well known to me, and I have not the least doubt that it was night-mare, which proved fatal to him; a similar case has been related to me by a person deserving of credit, and I do not doubt but they are of more frequent occurrence than is generally supposed. It may appear surprising to some that a person should struggle with so much violence as to throw himself out of bed, and yet not to shake off the night-mare, since in general it is sufficient to call a person by his name, and he will recover: this is indeed true in common cases, and in every case it is of much more service than any exertions which the patient himself can make. I once at sea, in a paroxysm of night-mare, threw myself out of my cot, and it nearly cost me my life: had any person been near to have taken hold of my hand, and have called me, I should have been easily recovered, whilst, notwithstanding my struggles, and the violence with which I fell out of my cot, I lay nevertheless for some time, partly upon a chest, and partly upon the cot, without being able to recover myself. I cannot help thinking, that but for the violent motion of the ship, (as it was blowing a gale of wind) and the noise from every thing about me, that paroxysm of night-mare would have proved fatal, the disease having gained very much upon me and was then at its greatest height."

Mr. Waller is of opinion, that the disease attacks during sleep, yet we think it is not *quite* sleep—it is as it were the point between sleeping and waking, for the patient always connects with the paroxysm some frightful dream, yet when it is over he perfectly remembers his torturing situation, and position in bed, during the fit.

In the early stages of incubus the patient is only awakened with a sense of having dreamt a horrible dream, such as that he was pursued by some wild beast, or demon, or murderer, &c. and so situated, that he could not move from the danger; or that he was pent up in some place where he could not breathe or stir. He falls into a more quiet sleep after this dream and feels no more of it: but when the disease is fully formed, this disagreeable sensation increases until the patient begins to be sensible that he is in bed, but the sense of weight and suffocation still oppressing him, without having the slightest power to relieve himself. The painful sensation still increases to the most dreadful agony, while the patient becomes more and more sensible of his situation; he strives in vain by moving his limbs to rid himself of the weight which oppresses him, and in this state he expects instant death; the eyes are generally half open, the countenance ghastly, and the heart throbs violently. The patient remains in this state for about a minute, when he suddenly recovers, upon which he generally jumps up, or out of bed, to recover his senses thoroughly. If he does not; but yield again to sleep, the paroxysm returns, and he has his sufferings over again. In cases where the paroxysm has not frequently recurred, the patient does not feel any inconvenience after it has passed; but, in confirmed cases, the head feels confused all day after an attack, with a heaviness over the eyes, tingling in the ears, and films floating before the sight with palpitations of the heart in a strong degree, a sense of weight at the stomach, and an unpleasant taste in the mouth.

These are the common symptoms of night-mare, but there are others which occasionally take place, when the patient fancies that he has seen some terrific apparition, and not all the reflection which he is capable of can convince him that it was not real; every sense seems to suffer the deception, and nothing can persuade him that he has not seen, heard, and felt the ghost or demon. Mr. Waller remarks,—"Indeed I know no way which a man has of convincing himself that the vision which has occurred during a paroxysm of night-mare (if

it be consistent in point of time and place) is not real, unless he could have the evidence of other persons to the contrary, who were present, and awake at the time; or that these hallucinations were rendered familiar to him by frequent repetition."

Amongst several cases deduce Mr. Waller adds one of himself —" was lying in my cot, labouring under a paroxysm of night-mare; it was broad day light, and I could perceive distinctly all the objects in my cabin, which came within the range of vision; I was likewise conscious of labouring at the moment under this disagreeable malady, when I heard distinctly a person approach the cabin door and immediately after knock at it, and a well known voice of a quartermaster, who was often in the habit of calling me, after repeating my name, informed me that the Captain wished to see me immediately. I was unable to make any answer to this, although I attempted, and both the knocking and the message were repeated. I do not now remember whether twice or thrice. I heard the person however retire from the cabin door. As soon as I recovered, I arose and hastened to obey the summons which I had received, but was soon informed that the Captain was not on board, and that no messenger of any kind had been near my cabin."

We ourselves have known an instance of this kind so strong, that even to this day the person believes he saw a spectre. He was about fifty years of age, a man whose reasoning powers are extremely acute, and who, previous to this attack of night-mare, gave no credit to the existence of ghosts, but who, since that period, argues on the other side. We travelled together from Paris to Bourdeaux, and upon the road at Tours we stopped a few days. During our stay, the inn was thrown into a state of alarm by the supposed visitation. Screaming, mingled with the astonished ejaculations of the domestics, soon brought us to the spot where stood our friend shivering with terror, "big drops of sweat hung on his trembling front," and he looked more like a ghost than one who had just been in company with one. He was subject to frequent fits of night-mare; by his account he had just recovered from a severe paroxysm; but continued he, "I have seen a spectre, and not only seen it, but felt the cold bony arm and clammy cheek; it held me by the shoulders until I said a prayer, when it instantly vanished."

These instances go so far to prove, that the greater number of stories about ghosts arise from similar attacks.

In confirmed night-mare, the predisposition to sleep is very great; the patient feels a heaviness about the breast, which he relieves by a heavy sigh, and if he sits down for a little time, falls into a doze in spite of every effort against it, out of this slumber he is aroused by a sense of suffocation, this is relieved by a strong inspiration but the sleepy sensation returns, and with it the disagreeable feelings. The only remedy in this case is to walk about in the open air.

Night-mare is a disease to which people of all ages are subject; indigestion is the cause, and every one at some period or other suffers from that; but the habit of body which is the seat of confirmed incubus is the hypochondriacal, and people of a studious and contemplative disposition, literary men, those whose employments are sedentary, sailors, and those who eat hard indigestible food, are the proper subjects for this disease.

[*To be continued in our next.*]

A WORD ON WHAT IS TERMED "NERVOUS FEELINGS."

AMONGST the many applications made to us for advice upon disease, at least one half describe their complaints as *nervous*. They are principally the effect of dyspepsia, or indigestion, and have more or less a tendency to hypochondriac and hysteric affections. It is astonishing to see the various modes of treatment adopted by the different medical attendants, of which the quacks form the greatest number; and even amongst the physicians, there appears such a contrariety of opinion and prescription that would almost lead us to suppose they were all in the dark. Pub

lishing of the following letter, perhaps, will be as good a way as we can adopt, to set forth some of the symptoms of these complaints, and as the writer details the treatment he has received from several medical men, we select his letter from the others.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

January 21, 1824.

SIR,

Being a constant reader of your very able publication, I take leave through this medium to submit to you my case, not doubting but I shall receive in a future number of the Medical Adviser your valuable opinion and advice regarding it. I am thirty-eight years of age, and from my youth have been afflicted with what are called *nervous feelings*, so vividly described in the inclosed quack paper, and which some years ago induced me to purchase the stuff advertised, and which I have still by me untouched: I have always lived temperately in every respect—my employment is a good deal at the desk—I am almost constantly afflicted with depression of spirits and head-ache, but the most distressing complaint I labour under is often a sudden attack in the chest, the sensation as though a cord was tied round the organs of respiration, or as though there were not sufficient room in the cavity which contains the lungs to enable them fully to expand. This straitness is accompanied with the most distressing fears of immediate death, hands and feet cold as ice; pit of stomach so weak as scarcely to leave me sufficient of energy to draw my breath. I have placed myself under the advice of several medical men, both in town and country, still the complaint is unsubdued; and it may not be improper to inform you of their several opinions respecting my disease and their treatment thereof. The first doctor I consulted about eighteen years ago, in the country, said it was inflammation and contraction of the diaphragm, and administered to me during the fit, the following draught*—

Of Epsom salts, an ounce.
Spirit of nitrous ether, ten drops.
Syrup of roses to sweeten.

The next gentleman I consulted told me that my disorder was a stomach complaint, having bile upon it, and gave me strong purges to carry it off, which had like to have carried me off at the same time; I was reduced to a shadow. The next doctor I consulted told me my disease was nothing but hysterics—he bled me thrice under an attack of it, and prescribed for me as follows:—

Of compound spirits of lavender and ether, 2 drachms each;—Camphuretted mixture and mint water, of each four grains;—Mix a spoonful per dose of Rufus's pill and Galbanum, two a dose.

The next doctor I consulted said my disease was angina pectoris, I think he called it. He applied pressure on the pit of my stomach, which was extremely tender, and said, I had no organic disease—it was dyspepsia, which I suppose meant indigestion. He said I was afflicted with it while under a fit, and prescribed for me—

Tincture of castor, eight drops.
Laudanum, ten drops.
Vit. ether, half a drachm—Made up with mint water; also a calomel and scammony pill.

I might quote the recipes and opinions of other medical men I have consulted at different times, but all their medicines which I took only produced temporary relief. I have for the last twelve months been taking occasionally various patent pills. I am ashamed in having had recourse to these quack medicines. Pardon me, Sir, in troubling you with this long epistle, the only apology I have to offer is the *extreme* anxiety I feel to obtain your opinion and instruction as to diet, medical treatment, &c.

I am, Sir, your most obedient,
most humble servant,
J. H. *

In the above case one physician said the disease was *inflammation and contraction of the diaphragm;* a second pronounced it to be *bile upon the stomach*, and a third declared it

* We have translated the Latin prescription.—ED.

* If J. H. finds no relief by following the plan we mean to lay down next week to remove indigestion, we shall be glad to hear from him, as we mean to propose other remedies for his complaint.

to be *angina pectoris*, of which disease it bears a strong character, although by no means fully established. Yet none of these can it be truly called. Inflammation of the diaphragm is out of the question; bile on the stomach is obscure and indefinite; while angina pectoris would have, in all probability, destroyed the patient before this time: for, as it arises from the ossification of the arteries which nourish the heart, eighteen years of such disease would have destroyed that organ. Doctor Heberden was the first who noticed this disease about sixty years ago; and it has since received the attention of most eminent men. Some have differed in their opinion of the cause, and have declared it merely spasmodic, and to this opinion we subscribe—not disputing however that ossification of the coronary arteries often causes the disease; or that superabundant fat upon the heart, or collection of fluid in the pericardium, may equally produce it; but we think by far greater numbers suffer in this complaint from spasmodic affections, either of the muscles which act in respiration (among which is the diaphragm,) or of the blood vessels and heart themselves, and therefore they are two distinct diseases, although the symptoms may be nearly alike.

Nothing is more common with people who fret and are habitually melancholy, than to feel as they say "a sinking" in the breast, a heaviness in respiration, and frequently a pain. These symptoms are inseparable from depressed spirits. What is the first symptom of a depression of the mind? A sigh—which is no more than an involuntary exertion of the respiratory muscles to keep themselves free from the weight newly imposed upon them; or, in other words, from the sluggishness which the nerves supplying life to the heart, lungs, and great blood vessels, are disposed to. If this first cause (grief) continue, this sluggishness will follow, and therefore heavy sighing, still increasing as it goes on. The digestive organs—stomach, liver and spleen, being supplied with nerves from nearly the same branches, are also oppressed—that is, the nerves do not act as powerfully as before, and indigestion follows. This re-acts upon the nervous system, and general disease is the consequence. No wonder then that men under affections of the mind become diseased. So great a sympathy exists between the brain, the organs of digestion, and the circulation, that some ancient philosophers supposed the seat of the soul to be the stomach. The *par vagum*, or eighth pair of nerves, is the largest that comes out from the brain, and this descends to supply the stomach with life and feeling, while the parts immediately surrounding the stomach are supplied with nerves from the spinal marrow—the brain *itself* communicates with the stomach *directly*. Hence affections of the mind in most cases operate upon the stomach, grief, joy, anger—all the strong passions seem to derange it. Who has not observed, that one who has met with a sudden great calamity refuses to eat—in like manner, if a child be promised any thing highly delightful to it, such as to be taken to the play, the stomach does not crave supply.

In almost all those nervous affections, a depression of the mind will be found to have been the cause, and to remove that, should be the object, to obtain a cure. However this cannot at all times be done; but those organs which suffer by this cause may be assisted, and thereby we combat the disease in a formidable way. The stomach may be so treated as to regenerate action in the subsiding nervous power; and of this we shall treat under the head of dyspepsia or indigestion in our next number.

All those patent quack medicines sold for nervous complaints are only like so much spirits; they impart a temporary relief, which subsiding, leaves the patient a prey to still worse torture than before. People under such complaints are not to be cured by *one* or *ten* medicines. The disease is to be removed by a system laid down upon philosophical principles; combining regimen and medicine with a properly digested direction for the mind. This we shall point out in treating of hypochondria and indigestion.

—

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

The Weaning Brash.

This disease begins with purging, griping, and sometimes bilious vomiting, with greenish fæces, which, as the disease advances, becomes ash-coloured, a great wasting succeeds, and frequently convulsion carries off the infant.

It attacks children of a lax nature, and occurs in those who are weaned too early, or fed without the mothers' milk. It is certainly caused by derangement of the digestive organs, for upon dissection either the liver or gall-bladder, or mesenteric glands, are usually found hardened, or otherwise diseased.

When attention is paid to the infant in time, the disease may be removed without much trouble, but if neglected it usually proves fatal in six weeks.

The immediate return to the mother's milk, if possible, will do wonders here; but if that be impossible, such food as we have laid down in our first number, under the head of food and clothing for infants, must be adopted; powdered biscuit and milk, as there directed, must be the diet, with intermediate drinks and beef broths, but no butter, sugar, nor broths must be employed; the quality is of course the principal thing to be observed in selecting food for infants, but next to that is the quantity given. It should not be always going down the child's throat, but must be given in moderate quantities, at proper distances of time; and we really believe, that it is the overloading of the stomach of the infant which causes the disease, by suppressing the powers of digestion; for when a child is weaned, it is constantly trying to gratify its late habits of sucking, and if it takes to feeding, never knows when to stop. This must be regulated by the judgment of the nurse. Bathing the body twice a day in tepid water, rubbing the abdomen, promoting heat by flannel, at the same time admitting wholesome air, will materially assist the cure. As to medicine, it must be simple—merely giving an opening powder every second day, of rhubarb and magnesia, and the following every fourth day, will answer every purpose:—

Calomel, three grains
Ipecacuanha, two grains
Aromatic powder, six grains

Mix and divide into six parts—one pa dose—to be given at night.

—

EPHIDROSIS, OR IMMODERATE PERSPIRATION.

This is in general dependant upon debility. Those people who have accustomed themselves to a relaxing mode of life, sitting up late, lying long in the morning, drinking warm slops, &c. It also is a frequent attendant upon people of sedentary employments. In all these cases indigestion is the exciting cause, and to relieve the complaint, the organs of digestion must be attended to in such a manner; as we shall lay down under th head of Dypepsia, of which we shall next treat. However, as a general rule in immoderate perspirations—let the clothing be light, the air good ane cool, the drink always cold, the bowels regulated by our antibilious pill, page 32, and suffusing the body, or sponging it with equal parts of vinegar or spirits and water daily: this with moderate exercise and a wholesome regimen, using biscuit instead of bread, will be of great service in checking the complaint. If profuse perspirations arise from indulgence in sexual excess, the means of removing it must be that laid down when treating upon nervous debility. Where it arises from diseased lungs it cannot be checked until that disease is removed.

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ADVICE ON THE USE OF TOBACCO AND SNUFF.

Opium, bangue, spirits, tobacco and snuff, are the inventions of depraved and barbarous taste, and when used as articles of luxury, have a direct tendency to injure the constitution. All are excellent mediums in certain ways, but they are also strong poisons. Of the whole, there is none so disgusting as tobacco and snuff, and in many cases, nothing more injurious. The odour which smoking leaves in the mouth—the colour it gives the teeth—the constant spitting it usually produces, and the filthy appearance which snuff imparts to its confirmed votaries, are full proofs

that the practice is disgusting; while the stimulus which smoking gives to the salival glands, and consequent discharge of that digestive fluid,—the excitement it gives the nerves, and consequent waste of vital principle (for this principle may exist in *quantity* as well as the blood;) the sickness which it not unusually gives the stomach, and consequent temporary torpidity, or other derangement both to that organ and the liver; the inactivity and sottishness which attends its free indulgence—all point out the deleterious effects of tobacco. Snuff, although not attended with so many serious effects, still is not free from bad consequences; the thickening of the membrane which lines the nose, and polypus, the dangerous stimulus given to the blood-vessels of the head, in men predisposed to apoplexy; the passing of the subtile duct into the trachea and lungs, are sufficient to warrant us in pronouncing snuff an injurious errhine, when habitually used.

An opinion has gone abroad, that smoking in the morning is a wholesome practice, and the advocates of smoking will always subscribe to that opinion; dram drinkers and opium eaters, will, on the same principle, recommend their favourite mouthful, and dilate upon its good qualities. One is just as injurious as the other; nor is there a single disease in the catalogue, in which smoking or dram drinking in the morning can be of the slightest benefit.

The opposition which was shewn to the introduction of this filthy and savage custom, by every country in Europe, is a strong argument against it. The Sovereigns were unanimous in condemning it; and in Turkey it was punished with death; yet, like the pernicious habit of drinking, it gained ground; but not so much from a conviction that it was a harmless luxury, as from the sources it pointed out to statesmen of improving the revenue; and this indulgence of folly and depraved taste, was thus fortified by the sanction of governments, in the same way as the duty upon quack medicines shut up the eyes of our legislators against the many deaths which they occasion. Interest and whim brought tobacco into use, and fashion prolongs it. Lord Byron, amongst his other diseased philosophy, writes a panygeric upon it, more we believe to supply a punning point, than to compliment tobacco. Young men are seen at all times in the day with segars in their mouths, and so far is pernicious habit gone, that some fashionable ladies have adopted the practice. Dr. Gall had no need to point out an organ of imitativeness upon man's cranium; this faculty so emphatically called apishness, is a principle in our nature, and alone causes the use of tobacco, for none ever smoked at first with the slightest pleasure except that of imitating. Hence the power of example in society, and hence our bad customs, among which stand foremost the habit of drinking, smoking, and snuffing.

It is needless to use further arguments against tobacco. Our readers are requested to take our advice as meant for the best, and without any prejudice. We do not expect that men long habituated to smoking will abandon it, nor do we advise it, because we take it for granted, that the stimulating effect of tobacco in them is deadened by habit; but, in beginners, we hope to induce an abandonment of the practice, and in all those who become either giddy in the head, sick at the stomach, pale in the face, or spit profusely; for in such cases it is decidedly most pernicious. There is, however, one description of people to which smoking at certain times may be attended with benefit, and that is in hypochondriac cases; but the time and quantity is to be regulated; and on this point we shall dwell in treating of hypochondria.

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OF COMMON WATER.

The usual appearances of water is too well known to require description. It retains its fluidity, under the ordinary pressure of the atmosphere, at any degree of temperature, between 32° and 212°* Fahrenheit: but under

* This degree varies according to the pressure of the atmosphere. Thus, in Gemmelaro's hut, on the side of Etna, about 11332 feet from the level of the sea, Dr. Irving found that water boiled at 191°.

32° it crystallizes and becomes solid, or is changed into ice; and above 212° assumes an aëriform character, or becomes steam expanding to 1698 times its ordinary bulk. One cubic inch of pure water, at 60_0 and under a pressure of the atmosphere, indicated by 30° of the barometer, weighs one fifteenth part of a grain less than 252 grains and a half.

Although water is almost universally diffused over the surface of the earth, yet it is not found perfectly pure in any place; which is owing to its great solvent powers enabling it to take up a portion of many things, with which it must come into contact in its natural state. These impregnations, however, are not sufficient in general to give it any very sensible taste or odour, or to render it unfit for the ordinary purposes of life; and it is in this state that common water is usually obtained. Common water varies considerably according to the source whence it is derived, and other circumstances; but all the varieties may be reduced under the three following heads. 1. Rain water—2. Spring water—3. River water.

Rain Water is the purest kind of natural water; but it nevertheless contains in solution in every 100 cubic inches about 3½ cubic inches of air, rather more oxygenous than atmospheric air, and about one cubic inch of carbonic acid gas; besides minute portions of carbonate of lime. Its specific gravity scarcely differs from that of distilled water; and after precipitating the muriate of lime, by dropping into it a little barytic water, and exposing it to the atmosphere, until the precipitate be totally deposited, it is sufficiently pure for most pharmaceutical purposes. Where rain water however is collected in towns, or from the roofs of houses, it contains a small portion of sulphate of lime, soot and other impurities, and requires to be boiled and filtered before dropping in the barytic water.

Snow Water, when newly melted, is destitute of air; which is the reason that fish cannot live in it; but when allowed to remain for some time exposed to the air, it does not differ in its qualities from rain water.

Spring Water, if it has not filtered through a very soluble soil, is almost as pure as rain water. The best springs are those which rise through sand or gravel at a small depth. It generally contains, besides the ingredients which are found in rain water, a small portion of muriate of soda.

Well, or Pump Water, which is spring water obtained by digging to a considerable depth, is by no means pure. It is commonly distinguished by a property named hardness, implying a capability of dissolving soap; which is owing to its containing many earthy salts, the principal of which is sulphate of lime. It also contains more carbonic acid gas than common spring water. Many of the foreign ingredients contained in hard water are simply suspended in it; for pump water is rendered softer and purer by only passing it through a filtering stone. The best mode of freeing hard water of its earthy salts is first to boil it; and then, after it has cooled, to drop into it an alkaline carbonate; and lastly, to filter it. It cannot be employed in compounding medicines.

River Water, when the stream is rapid, and runs over a pebbly or siliceous channel, is as pure as the softer spring water; but when the current is slow, and the bed clayey, it approaches nearer to the nature of well water, and frequently contains putrified vegetable and animal matters, as is generally the case in water of lakes and marshes.

Such are the foreign ingredients contained in *common water*. Boiling frees it from air and gases, and precipitates many of the earthy salts: but distillation in glass vessels frees it entirely from those ingredients, and it is obtained almost perfectly pure, transparent, colourless, insipid, and inodorous.

The varieties of water enumerated above, may be almost indiscriminately employed as diluents, the small proportion of foreign ingredients they contain occasioning no difference in their diluent properties. When the quantity of sulphate of lime, and aluminous matter, how-

ever, is very considerable, as is the case in the water of many pumps, there is some reason for concluding that deleterious effects may arise from the use of the water; although it may be doubted whether the scrophulous and glandular swellings peculiar to Manchester can be justly ascribed to this cause.* Even a few of the waters which are regarded as mineral waters, owe more to the diulent property of the water for their efficacy, than to the impregnations they contain. This is particularly the case with the Malvern spring, which has been found to contain very little foreign matter. The diluting power of water is much modified by temperature; warm or tepid water being a much better diluent than cold water.

The medical properties of water as a diluent were well known to the ancients; and cold water used as a drink in fevers, was the principal remedy of the Father of Physic in these complaints.

The temperature of 20° is the proper degree when it is intended that water should produce its diluent effects without the aid of heat. Under 45° it produces a sedative and astringent effect; above 60° and under 100° it relaxes the fibres of the stomach, and is apt to induce nausea, particularly when bulk is added to this range of temperature; but at a higher temperature, the stimulus of the heat, in the same manner as the addition of any other stimulants, presents that effect.

Simple water may supersede the use of all other diluents; but animal and vegetable infusions are generally employed; or toast and water, which is more agreeable, and is an excellent diluent to all fevers and inflammatory diseases. The temperature of water as a diluent should be regulated by the nature of the disease: in internal hemorrhages, the temperature should not exceed 45°, but it may be 60° in fevers; unless in the cold stage of the paroxysm of fever, when thirst should be allayed by tepid or warm water, or other bland fluids of that temperature; and the same precaution is necessary when the sweat has become general and profuse.

In cases in which there exists a morbid increase of bile, disbursing the functions of the stomach, and irritating the bowels, the temperature of the water used as drink may be from 90° to 114°; and in some cases of dyspepsia, which are attended with the sensation of coldness at the stomach, and with cold extremities, a cup full of water taken as hot as it can be drank, affords very considerable relief. In cases of redundant bile, drinking half a pint of tepid water before breakfast, and taking immediately afterwards moderate exercise, may so dilute the bile as to accelerate its removal. In cholera morbus also, drinking warm water is of the greatest service. Sudorific, diuretic and emetic medicines are always assisted by warm water.

Such are the opinions of Mr. Thomson, upon common water, with which we fully agree.

* The waters of Norfolk, particularly in and about Norwich, are supposed to have a great share in producing stone. The operation is more frequently performed in that city than in all Great Britain put together, and their collections of extracted stones are more numerous than any other in Europe.

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OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Putting upon a recent wound from a sharp-edged instrument, chewed herbs.

This is a bad practice. The best mode in all cases of simple cuts, is to remove any extraneous bodies from them, and place the parts in apposition binding them moderately together, and not opening the wound for several days.

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Spirits and Bitters given before breakfast for worms.

This also is an evil practice—worms are not so frequently in the stomach as in the small intestines, consequently do not come in contact with the spirits; and even if they did, they have instinct sufficient to avoid it.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Sodaic Powders.

Twelve drachms of carbonate of soda divided into twelve parts (in blue paper.)

Eleven drachms of tartaric acid divided into twelve parts (in white paper.) Dissolve the tartaric acid in a glass of water, and then add the soda. This receipt is for twelve doses. It should be drank in the effervescent state.

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Seidlitz Powders.

These powders only differ from the above, by having a purgative salt added. The best to add is Rochelle salt. Three drachms to each dose.

The best way to make these powders is, to have some Rochelle salts always by, and having dissolved three drachms in a half or quarter of a beer glass of cold water, add the carbonate of soda, then dissolve the tartaric acid in another glass, and pour one upon the other. This will froth up and it should be then drank.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

SINCE the publication of our opinions upon the infamous quacks of London, we have been complimented from all quarters. The attack seems to meet with general approbation—the greatest possible proof of the justice of our undertaking. England has long been duped by rascals in masks—ignorance and impudence with a wig and mantle—but thank heaven, from the numerous opinions we have received upon our *annals of quackery* we no longer despair of putting an end to the frauds practised against ignorant and believing people. It is as clear as day that these fellows, the quacks, offer an article for sale which is the highest imposition and roguery—not only of *no* value, but absolutely *poisonous* to the buyer. The legislation as yet have not noticed this abuse; but we trust it will not long be silent on the subject. We have laws passed against the adulteration of tea and coffee (we hope not altogether on account of the interest of the revenue) and why not against such horrible compositions as the medicines of those unprincipled fellows, compounded of drugs, of which they know nothing, and of which even the ablest Physicians speak with doubt and caution?

One of those quacks has sent to us indirectly a threat of indictment for libel.—Libel! if there exists an undefined feeling in judging of libel as regards politics or charges of libel brought by men of reputation and fair character, there can be nothing of the kind in the cases of such as Eady, Jordan, Lynch, Twynam, or Courtnay. What does Mr. Gurney say in a trial wherein Twynam was plaintiff? "This is the IMPUDENT action of an IMPUDENT QUACK!" How then can such fellows hope to have the indulgence of a verdict of honest men in their favour. Could Probert, or any other infamous defrauder, come forward with clean hands against any man for pointing him out to his neighbours as he really is. This wretched miscreant has threatened our publisher with an action; and so has one of the *murdering* quacks. They have both the same claims to sympathy.

Our limits will not permit us to give the history of Courtnay this week; as we think the following letters should not be lost to the public, who we think are indebted to their authors for exposing the fellows of whom they speak.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR, January 26, 1824.

Doctor R. Courtnay, as he calls himself, is the same man who for several years disgraced the newspapers of this country with his infamous advertisements, under the name of CURRIE & Co. of Hatton Garden. You can, no doubt, easy ascertain the fact, and I believe will find that he is now a prisoner in the King's Bench, or Fleet, but has the benefit of the rules, whereby he may be enabled to appear during the day at Robert Street, under the new regulations.

The venality of the European Magazine proprietors, at the time they allowed his *puffing* notice of his work to appear, and which he quotes in his advertisements, is highly disgraceful, and must be detrimental to the credit of their work. *

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W.

* We perfectly agree with the writer of this letter on the impropriety of so respectable a print as the European Magazine mixing itself up with such trash. We think that publications confined to literature, step out of their way (even if competent) in reviewing *medical works*.—Ed.

P. S. I open this again to say, that the pretended digestive cigars, are merely mild cigars moistened with either a strong decoction of Cascarilla Bark, or some of the fine powder of it inserted under the leaf after they have been moistened—they are then rolled up again and dried. To use a vulgar phrase, it is a complete *humbug*.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

January 26, 1821.

SIR,

It was not until yesterday that I read No. 7, of your excellent periodical, and need hardly say the "annals of quackery" afforded me much amusement. I was engaged as solicitor to defend an action brought by Master (I beg pardon, "Doctor") Lynch for the price of his stuff, in which he had the audacity to *swear* that my unfortunate client was *justly* indebted to him in 46*l.* and upwards, and upon the affidavit so sworn, my client was arrested, but not being intimidated, he, under my advice, filed special bail, and defended—the cause was to have been tried at the Guildhall, Westminster, at the sittings of the last Trinity Term, and my witnesses subpœnaed, and every preparation made, but on the very eve of going into court, the illiterate humbug countermanded the notice—he has since discontinued the action, and in consequence has had to pay costs to my client, amounting to near 50*l.* in addition to his own, which I take to be about, if not more than that amount. You shall be welcome to a perusal of my counsels' brief in the cause.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ENEMY TO QUACKERY.

—

PHRENOLOGY.

WE have received a letter from one of the leading Scotch Phrenologists, finding great fault with our opinions of Thurtell's head, *because they do not go to prove that ferocious murderer had the usual phrenological marks*, which the disciples of that science say are *always* to be found in murderers. We regret that he has precluded us from publishing his letter, for there are points therein mentioned which would doubtless have excited abler pens than ours to the controversy. The enthusiastic writer *directly* states that he has no doubt (although he has not yet seen it) that Thurtell's head will prove to have all the marks of a murderer's scull! And by way of coming at his favourite wish, states that a bump is not necessary, but merely a *general fulness*, and requests us to measure from the centre of destructiveness to distinctiveness with a pair of callipers, and that if the distance be found to be greater than in ordinary heads, namely, about six inches and a half, why then Thurtell must have the bump of destructiveness larger than others. Now along the course of these six inches and a half, there are situated the supposed organs of *benevolence*, *veneration*, *hope*, and *ideality*. May not, therefore, the increased distance be in *any* or in *all* of those organs? And in the case of Thurtell, where the bump of destructiveness was not very apparent, and that of *benevolence* WAS, is not this theory completely inapplicable?

We regret that enthusiasm has such power over the learned men of this science, as to make them twist straight facts into their hypothetical channel. While this feeling exists, never can we hope for truth in Phrenology. It is more injurious to science than the raillery of the ignorant and prejudiced; because the latter are easier to be taught by true arguments. As a sample of this class of people, who run tilt at all things which they cannot comprehend, we select the writer of a letter in the Sunday Monitor of last week, headed in their placards, "*Phrenologists laughed at.*" We should not notice this piece of mock-logic, but that those who know no more of anatomy or physiology than the writer, might perhaps swallow all he said, and like Dominie Sampson exclaim, "prodigious!" and also because it followed the paper in which the editor extracted, not only our article upon Thurtell's head, but the drawing of the head. Let us then show, what sort of anatomical learning this critic possesses, and then we can appreciate his arguments and "won-

ferous drollery." Thus he proceeds: "The true art of reasoning is from cause to effect—Phrenology is the reverse." It is *not* the reverse; Phrenologists endeavour to prove that on the size of the organs depend the effect—their peculiarities. Again: "Even suppose the mental faculty capable of expanding the brain *that* is so thin a membrane *(membrane!)* that it cannot expand the bone of the skull, which is formed and hardened before the mind begins to operate in the infant—you must then reverse it. The protuberance is original: the brain having room to expand their peculiar faculty enlarges, and is of course more strongly developed." Now what value can we have for the opinion of a man upon a science treating of the *brain*, who thinks that the brain is a *membrane*? And how his forward presumption must be admired when it is known, that the concavities in the bone of the skull are formed *by the brain*—the strongest argument existing in favour of the principles of Phrenology? This doughty critic reminds us of the fable of the bear in the boat, which Gay so elegantly and wittily wrote for such men. Again we declare our opinion, that Phrenology, moderately and learnedly pursued, will yet throw new light upon us, and both the *ultra* and the railer are its greatest enemies.

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FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. III.

Anatomy.

In spite of the declamations of some gothic spirits, we rejoice at not being born in the age of ignorance, where prejudice impeded the free march of science. A common feeling with nearly all people, and that which they adhere to the strongest, is the taking of dead bodies for dissection; they think it sacrilege, and for this reason, anatomy remained a long time in a state of infancy; but no sooner were we permitted to search after nature through the mortal ruins of man, but anatomy lifted her head amongst the sciences, and threw light upon medicine by her numerous discoveries. It is in our day that the physical nature of man is studied with passion by profound observers, and cultivated with delight.

The school of Paris can boast with justice of having produced the celebrated Bichat, who at the early age of thirty-two, joined at once the richest erudition with the most brilliant ideas. The suspicions are not unfounded, that accuse the jealousy of Bichat's rivals of his premature death: a base envy existed against him in the mind of the revolutionary Lavoisier. His Descriptive Anatomy, his Treatise on Life and Death; and his General Anatomy, above all, mark his talent. Pathological anatomy owes him the most interesting discoveries.

If we would compare the anatomy of Paris with London, we would say, that nothing can equal the care which is taken in preparing the bodies that are to serve for the lectures. Their dissections are clean and elegant. Minute in some points, even to fatigue his auditory, the professor resembles the French treatises, upon the matter of which he speaks, setting down with admirable perfection all that is reported upon Ortiology, Neurology, &c. &c &c.; but he neglects completely, that species of anatomy cultivated with so much zeal in England, *Surgical Anatomy*. The French have not one original work upon that subject, where a description can be found of those parts so interesting in the important operations of surgery. They have translated Scarpa often: M. Beclard is publishing in French, Lawrence's Treatise on Hernia; but Cooper and our other writers are only known to a few who are acquainted with the English language. The dissection rooms of *L'Ecole de Medicine* are situated behind *L'Hospice de Perfectionnement*. These were built a little after the institution of *L'Ecole de Sante*, and of all the edifices destined to such use, we know none that fulfils better the end for which it was intended. There are six buildings of the same length detached one from the other. Each is composed of only one room, sufficiently large

c contain nearly twenty tables for dissection.

An anatomical chief is at the head of this establishment. The bodies for dissection are brought from the hospitals upon his order, or upon the order of the professors. Assistant dissectors are selected from amongst the students to demonstrate and to inject the subjects for the lectures.

We have already observed, that the students of *L'Ecole Pratique* pay nothing for dissections, they have also the privilege of choosing their subjects. As many of the pupils who inscribe themselves for the degree of Doctor are not obliged to dissect, and if they do, it is voluntarily, and to prepare for their examinations, and when the hospitals furnish a sufficient quantity of bodies, it costs but little money.

The subjects are in abundance, and at a very low price. The greatest number, however, are cut away, but not *dissected.*

Besides these dissection rooms, there are immense rooms situated behind *La Pitié;* three vast rooms containing nearly ninety tables, and in each room an articulated skeleton. In a kind of cabinet contiguous to each room is a student more advanced than the others, to whom they address themselves upon any point of anatomical difficulty.

When we visited *La Pitié,* the first room contained twenty-three bodies, and sixty-two students, occupied by dissection. All the bodies of the patients that die in the hospital of *L'Hotel-Dieu* are sent there. The primitive destination of this establishment was to be dedicated to the use of the students of *L'Ecole Pratique;* but the number of subjects surpassed their necessities, and, therefore it was opened to all other pupils at the expense of five or six shillings per body.

Notwithstanding the situation of these dissecting rooms, and their distance from the university and the hospitals usually frequented, more than four hundred students attend them every winter.

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THE THERMOMETER.

Fahrenheit, who constructed the thermometer commonly used in this country, was an artist of Amsterdam. He formed his scale by beginning at a temperature produced by a mixture of snow and sea salt, and divided the difference between this and the temperature of boiling water into 212 equal parts or degrees. That part of the scale which was indicated by the freezing of water, he found to be 32 degrees from the first; therefore this he called the *freezing point*, and 212, he called the *boiling point*, the space between being 180 parts or degrees.

The Centrigade thermometer, constructed by Celsius, and which is used in France, is divided into 100 equal parts; the freezing point marked 0, and the boiling point 100. As each degree of this thermometer is $\frac{4}{5}$ths more than a degree of Farhenheit's, to find, therefore, the corresponding numbers, a given degree of the centrigade must be multiplied by 9, and divided by 5, adding 32 to the quotient. This will give the degree on the scale of Fahrenheit.

The thermometer used in Spain and Italy, is Reaumur's. It is divided into 80 degrees or parts, beginning at the freezing point marked 0. Each degree, therefore, is $\frac{1}{4}$ths. more than that of Fahrenheit.

The given number of the degree of Reaumur's, must then be multiplied by 9, and divided by 4, adding 32 to the quotient.

The thermometer used in Russia, is De Lisle's, and is divided into 150 parts. But this scale is marked inversely, commencing at the freezing point marked 150, and ending at the boiling point marked 0.

The use of the thermometer is great, and the invalid's house should never be without it.

Table shewing the degrees of Reaumur's and Fahrenheit's Thermometer, corresponding with those of the Centrigage.

Cent.	Reaum.	Fahr.	Cent.	Reaum.	Fahr.	Cent.	Reaum.	Fahr.	Cent.	Reaum.	Fahr.
100	80.	212.2	68	54.4	154.4	36	28.8	96.8	5	4	41
99	79.2	200.2	67	53.6	152.6	35	28	95	4	3.2	39.2
98	78.4	208.4	66	52.8	150.8	34	27.2	93.2	3	2.4	37.4
97	77.6	206.6	65	52	149	33	26.4	91.4	2	1.6	36.6
96	76.8	204.8	64	51.2	147.2	32	25.6	89.6	1	0 8	33.8
95	76	203	63	50.4	145.4	31	24.8	87.8	0	0	32
94	75.2	201.2	62	49.6	143.6	30	24	86	1	0.8	30.2
93	74.4	199.4	61	48.8	141.8	29	23.2	84.2	2	1.6	28.4
92	73.6	197.6	60	48	140	28	22.4	82.4	3	2.4	26.6
91	72.8	195.8	59	47.2	138.2	27	21.6	80.6	4	3.2	24 8
90	72	194	58	46.4	136.4	26	20 8	78.8	5	4	23
89	71.2	192.2	57	45.6	134.6	25	20	77	6	4.8	21.2
88	70.4	190.4	56	44.8	132.8	24	19.2	75.2	7	5.6	19.4
87	69.6	188.6	55	44	131	23	18.4	73.4	8	6.4	17.6
86	68.8	186.8	54	43 2	129.2	22	17.6	71.6	9	7 2	15.8
85	68.8	185	53	42.4	127.4	21	16.8	69.8	10	8	14
84	67.2	183.2	52	41.6	125.6	20	16	68	11	8.8	12.2
83	66.4	181.4	51	40.8	123.8	19	15.2	66.2	12	9.6	10.4
82	65.6	179.6	50	40	122	18	14.4	64.4	13	10.4	8.6
81	64.8	177.8	49	39.2	120.2	17	13.6	62.6	14	11.2	6.8
80	64	176	48	38.4	118.4	16	12.8	60.8	15	12	5
79	63.2	174.2	47	37.6	116.6	15	12	59	16	12.8	3.2
78	62.4	172.4	46	36.8	114.8	14	11.2	57.2	17	13.6	1.4
77	61.6	170.6	45	36	113	13	10.4	55.4	18	14.4	0.4
76	60.8	168.8	44	35.2	111.2	12	9.6	53.6	19	15.2	2.2
75	60	167	43	34.4	109.4	11	8.8	51.8	20	16	4
74	59.2	165.2	42	33.6	107.6	10	8	50	21	16.8	5.8
73	58.4	163.4	41	32.8	105.8	9	7.2	48.2	22	17.6	7.6
72	57.6	161.6	40	32	104	8	6.4	46.4	23	18.4	9.4
71	56.8	159.8	39	31.2	102.2	7	5.6	44.6	24	19.2	11.2
70	56	158	38	30.4	100.4	6	4.8	42.8	25	20	13
69	55.2	156.2	37	29.6	98.6						

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

M. Leo has proved that earth worms multiply by eggs which are to be seen in the spring. Some naturalists have supposed that the young was to be found within them, but it is merely the intestinal canal.

Dr. Kruger, Hansen of Gostrow, tates in his *Revue Medical*, that he has succeeded in putting a stop to excessive salivation, attended with bleeding from the gums, by daubing the inside of the mouth and fauces with tar.

There is a great deal said about *acupuncturation*, or curing the gout and rheumatism by wounding the diseased parts with needles. We think, if this plan does succeed at all, that it is on the same principle as blisters—counter-irritation. We hope *lock-jaw* will not follow some of those operations; wounding the nerves with a pointed instrument is a great cause of that disease. Yet although it may *cause* lock-jaw, it appears that it also may remove it, by a statement of Mr. Finch, surgeon of Greenwich, who declares that by sticking two needles into the muscles of the neck in a patient suffering from lock-jaw, he instantly relieved him. We will not dispute upon this point, because any remedy that gives the slightest hope should be tried; but we are sceptical upon it; for we have seen many cases of locked jaw, and witnessed all the varieties of treatment. The remedy is simple at all events, and should be tried again.

Leeches, says a modern author.

should not be much handled prior to their application. If the weather be cold, they are liable to become torpid, and should be warmed by breathing on them. Leeches may be applied by means of a wine or cupping glass. It is useful to put a piece of stiff paper to the bottom of the glass, to which they are otherwise apt to retire; or if they are required upon a particular spot, a small glass tube, four or five inches long, and just large enough to admit the body of the leech, may be employed. If the leech remain torpid during the application, a drop or two of cold water will arouse it into action. In order to preserve the leeches, they should be suffered to retain the blood, and merely be thrown into a jar of fresh water. In the course of a month or two they will become firm and healthy, and able to perform their functions again. But if the blood be squeezed from them, or if they are made to disgorge by sprinkling salt upon them, they will be fit for use in a very short time after, if they do not immediately die.

It will be recollected that a young man in a neighbouring county some little time ago, in exhibiting to some companions a slight of hand performance, with a table knife, actually swallowed the knife accidentally, which passed into his stomach. His apprehensive state of mind was afterwards dreadful: and on the 17th inst. when on his way to Sir Astley Cooper, to undergo an operation for its extraction, he died at Middlewich.

Manch. Guard.

It is now *three weeks* since we proposed the plan of an instrument in our pages to remove the knife from this man's stomach, in the hopes that some surgeon nearer to him than us would operate upon him. We wish he had been in London, for we are *confident* we could have removed the knife. We had a drawing of our invention already prepared.

The *John Bull* of Jan. 25, states, that the pulses of the prisoners, as they descended from the tread-mill, at Brixton, were examined, and that they ranged from 130 to 140 in a minute, and that one WOMAN'S was at 156! Yet the magistrates of Surrey say it is a fine healthful exercise; but, perhaps, they understand the circulation of the blood better than we do, and therefore may be right. The world gives them full credit for knowing something about the *contraction of the heart*, although they may *be blind to its effects.*

On the 22nd. inst. a woman in the act of working at the Tread Mill, Cold-bath-fields, miscarried! *O!* MR. BEVIL! * * * *!

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We thank an Enemy to Quackery.

ALPHA *is informed that there is no such persons in existence as* Goss & Co. "*authors*" *of the* Ægis of Life. *We have not heard that* EADY *was ever confined in a mad-house.*

We are happy to hear that MARY *has recovered—let her continue the directions a few days longer.*

We must defer compliance with L. MINOR'S *wishes until next week, when he may have the opinion he wishes upon the kidnies, under the head of Indigestion.*

A WOMAN OF KENT *is informed that we cannot treat of her particular disease; but that we mean shortly to publish a treatise upon females' complaints, to serve as a* peculiar *companion to our periodical publication, and equally cheap. The book will be under* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Let I. Q. *leave off all medicine. We wish he would transmit us the name of the medical man who could dose him in such a manner.*

T. A. St. John's-street, and W. W-L-T, *next week. Our other correspondents shall be attended to in due time.*

Erratum in No. 8—p. 114, last line, *for* "acception of *Phrenology*," *read* "accession to Phrenology."

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24 Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 10.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1824. [Price 3d.

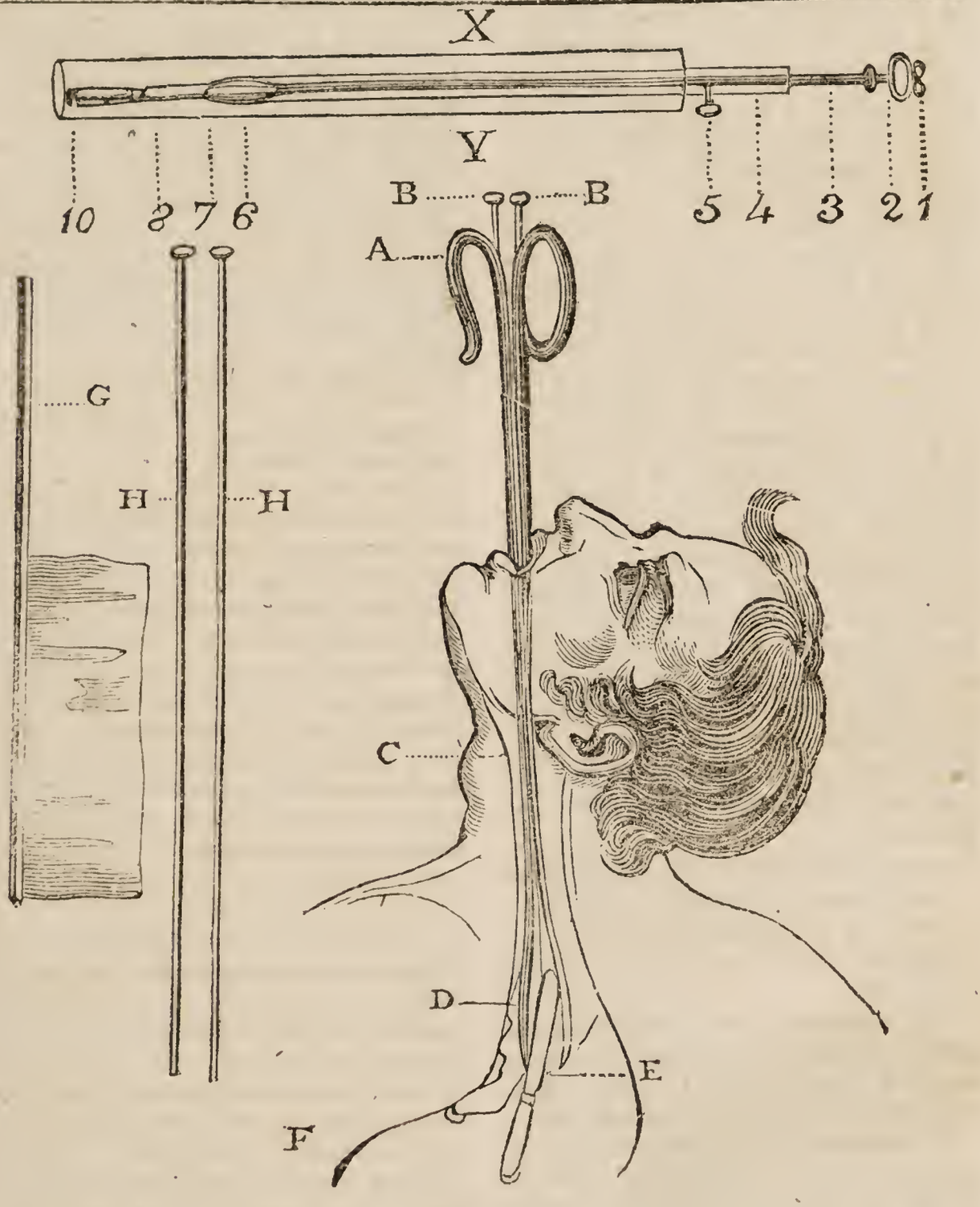


Fig. X.

1. The nut of the screw which fixes the handle.. 2. Handle. 3. Superior end of the rod. 4. Superior end of the inner tube. 5. Screw which fixes it to the rod to prevent it slipping up; and thereby letting go the knife! 6. The inferior end of the inner tube which acts as a ring in closing the branches upon the knife, and by th s means it is secured. 7. The branches of the instrument. 8. Knife within the outer tube. 9. Outer tube.

Fig. Y

A a whalebone forceps covered with leather. B B rods of iron which run along each shaft of the forceps to oppose their elasticity. C the œsophagus. D the end of the forceps with wet parchment attached. E the knife. G the end of the forceps, shew ing the flabby parchment attached, which by turning the forceps, wraps round the knife. H H the rods detached.

PLANS OF INSTRUMENTS
FOR
The Removal of the Knife from the Stomach of DEMPSTER.

THE outline marked Y, in the plate, is the plan of an instrument invented by us for the removal of the knife from the stomach of Dempster, and to which we alluded in a former number. Unfortunately for the man himself, he was permitted to travel by coach, with the intention of having relief in London. As might be expected, he died on his journey; and we regret that the surgeons of the town where he swallowed the knife, could be so blind as not to urge the *necessity of his remaining quiet*. If he proceeded on his journey by the advice of any medical man, we blush for such advice; —a pupil of six months' study in the profession would be ashamed of such want of judgment. We also regret that the proposal which we made in our 5th Number to remove the knife, was not profited by. We gave it full a *fortnight* before Dempster's death. We have not the slightest doubt but that this instrument would have answered the purpose; and as such accidents may occur hereafter, we publish with pleasure the plan of the instrument, as well as that transmitted to us from Scotland, which the inventor's subjoined letter will explain.

Proposal to remove the Knife from the Stomach of the Man who swallowed it at Carlisle.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

IN answer to your question on the above subject, in your very interesting medical work, p. 75, I take leave to trouble you with a few hasty hints.

I recommend an instrument to be made of steel, consisting of three or more branches, and of three or more inches in length, with *teeth*, and *grasped*, then to be screwed or fixed to an elastic or whalebone rod of proper length and thickness, and with an haft, introduced into the stomach through a *double* flexible tube, to the knife. The operator is then to draw the tubes towards the haft, only so far as to allow the branches of the instrument already introduced to collapse and take hold of the knife, the *inner* tube being thus pushed from the haft, (which requires to be longer than the *outer* tube) the branches will grasp the knife so firmly as to allow the outer tube to be cautiously pushed downwards and forwards to receive the grasped knife within it, and *then* extract it, for as soon as the knife is known to be completely within the larger tube, which must be of sufficient diameter, all may be withdrawn from the stomach, and in safety to the œsophagus, taking great care to continue equal and steady pressure upon the branches by the inner tube, which acts as a ring—this may be ensured by means of a small screw. The position of the patient must be carefully considered.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ACADEMICUS.

From the West of Fife,
January 24, 1824.

P S. The above failing, I would then have recourse to magnetism! I have at this moment before me a magnet not more than five inches and a half in length, which commands a large table knife—why not try the introduction of a magnet fixed to a rod through a tube, although nothing more might be accomplished by it than to bring the knife in the stomach to a favourable position for the application of the tubular extractor—or charge the branches of this instrument with magnetism.

—

NIGHTMARE *(continued)*.

FROM a prevailing idea that nightmare never attacks but when the patient is lying upon his back, the immediate cause has been set down to mechanical pressure of either the liver, stomach, or spleen, upon some of the nerves or the organs of respiration; but this is entirely fallacious, as will appear by the opinion of Mr. Waller, who himself was such a sufferer by the disease, and whose opinion, on that account, is worth all the other writers who have not felt the complaint. "There is no position," says this writer, "in which it is possible for a person to fall asleep, in which I have not been attacked by nightmare. Neither is there any more dependance to be placed on the

generally received opinion of the disease being produced by a full stomach. It may be naturally supposed that any person labouring under this affection to the degree which I have stated, although I have as yet given a very feeble idea of its extent, would take every possible precaution to keep clear of the causes which were so generally believed to have produced it. I religiously abstained for many years, from eating any thing after dinner, also took dinner at as early an hour as two o'clock. It was during this period that I suffered most from the disease. I think I may safely assert, that for more than twenty years, I have never once, to the best of my recollection, fallen asleep upon my back, or even found myself in that position on waking; when night after night has been rendered miserable by this enemy to repose. I have had recourse to every expedient which deep reflection could suggest. The perpendicular position of the body, I found by experience to be the worst in which a paroxysm of nightmare can be borne. The difficulty of respiration, and all the other symptoms are greatly aggravated, and an additional one is felt, which greatly increases the sufferings of the patient; it is a perpetual dread of falling, which appears inevitable, and which prevents the patient from struggling as much as he would do, if in an horizontal position. Next to this, is the position of sleeping with the body bent forwards, and the head reclining with the face downwards on a table: in this last position the difficulty of inflating the lungs is extreme. I have never been able to discover that any great difference arose between sleeping on the right or left side:— I have always considered it as a matter of indifference. Although it is possible to render the paroxysm of nightmare tolerable by any particular position of the body, yet I am well assured that no position will secure a person from its attacks, to whom it has once become habitual. I slept for some time in an easy chair, and found the disease greatly aggravated by it. There must, however, be some reason for the universal opinion, that it always attacks persons lying on their back. I was for a long time of opinion myself, that I was always lying in that position when the paroxysm came on; but as the disease gained strength, and the paroxysms hung more pertinaciously upon me, I became more perfectly awake, so as to be able to discover more accurately the position in which I was lying, and I found that little faith was to be given to the sensations that may occur during nightmare, as they are the most deceitful of all evidences. It appears to be one of the symptoms almost inseparable from the disease, that the patient should appear to himself to be kept down upon his back by some external force. This sensation I have almost always felt, even when I have had the evidence of other people, as well as my own conviction, when awake, that I was in reality lying on my side. Neither is it necessary for the stomach to be filled with food, in order to produce nightmare, as is evident, from what I have stated with respect to the abstinence I observed during the period in which I suffered most from this affection. Experience has taught me, that I may eat freely of some kinds of food just before going to bed, with impunity; whilst the smallest quantity of some other will inevitably bring on the disease, in spite of all the precautions that can be taken."

It is useless to enter into an examination of the various and complicated theories which writers have set down to endeavour to come at the exciting cause of the want of power in the organs of respiration during a fit of nightmare: the remote cause, however, requires more deep consideration.

From the treatment found beneficial in the disease, it is without doubt that the derangement of the digestive organs produce it. Acidity of the juices in the stomach and small intestines, is decidedly an accompaniment, and, perhaps, the cause of the disease; and upon this point the ancient physicians were of one opinion. This doctrine is best proved by the remedies they employed; and these

were the use of anti-acids. Many people possess such a disposition of the stomach to acidify its contents, that almost every thing they eat turns into acid; and such people in general suffer from nightmare more or less. The stomach in these cases is distended with acid gas, and the sudden eructation of this gas has put off the fit.

There cannot be a doubt that there are certain kinds of food which produce nightmare; and Hildesheim has remarked in his "*De Affectibus Capitis*," that "he who wishes to know what nightmare is, let him eat chestnuts before going to sleep, and drink feculent wine after them:" and Mr. Waller observes;—"I found by experience in the West Indies, that eating a particular fruit, called the *alligator pear*, would, at any time of the day, produce nightmare. This is a pulpy fruit, which when cut into, resembles a custard, and is frequently spread upon bread, and eaten instead of butter, whence it has obtained amongst military men the name of *Subaltern's butter*, and it is certainly no contemptible substitute for fresh butter. I used frequently to eat it, beat up with the juice of Seville oranges and sugar, in which case its action was almost instantaneous. So great a propensity to sleep came upon me, that I could not resist the temptation, though well aware of the consequences; so that I generally kept some persons by me to awake me as soon as the nightmare came on, which was always in the course of a few minutes. I have frequently shewn this experiment to my medical friends."

It is most likely that vegetables in general have a tendency to produce that state of the stomach so favourable to the disease; and also fruit, such as apples, melons, oranges, and other sub-acids, as well as all species of nuts—they are indigestible, and hence are likely to assist in the cause. There is an old remark, that "if you want unpleasant dreams, eat pork at night:"—but although we think meat in general improper for supper, yet pork we do not believe to be more so than others. Before we proceed to lay down a system of cure, we shall observe, that unpleasant dreams, starting from sleep, horrors on awaking,—and all the stages of this monstrous tormentor, are frequently the precursors of fevers. And from this we may trace the vulgar opinion in every country and all ages, that bad dreams were ominous of death or some dreadful malady. As a proof of this, it may be reasonably inferred, that the epidemic form of the disease, said by Silimachus to have existed at Rome, was only the forerunning symptoms of an epidemic fever. It is also said to have attended an epidemic disease at Leyden, in the year 1669; and Sylvius Deleboe, who records it, mentions, that previous to each paroxysm of the fever, the patient fell asleep, and suffered a severe fit of nightmare.

(*To be continued in our next.*)

VORACIOUS APPETITE.

In the medical and physical journal, vol. iii. a singular and authentic case is reported of a French prisoner who consumed, in the space of one day, 4lbs of raw hides, 10lbs of raw beef, 2lbs of candles, and five bottles of porter. The report is from Dr. Cochrane, who was inspector of the prison in which this man was confined, and he states that no particular increase of fæces or urine was to be observed, but that upon going to bed, an excessive perspiration succeeded.

M. Percey, surgeon-in-chief to the French army reports a case of bulimia of a most astonishing nature. A young man of the name of Terrare, a native of Lyons, had habituated himself while pursuing his profession of strolling juggler, to swallow flints, living animals, whole baskets of fruit, broken victuals, &c., and so established was this monstrous habit, that it became necessary to his existence. He entered the army in the beginning of the late war, and there used to satisfy his craving by the refuse and filth of the hospital and the soldier's messes. He was observed to attend the dunghills with the dogs, to cheat them of their right; and not unfrequently seized those animals, as well as cats, rats, and mice, and devour them alive—nay, he was

for being found in the dead house, attempting to indulge his voracious appetite by the bodies, and the blood drawn from the sick. A child of sixteen months old was missing, and strong circumstantial evidence existing that Terrare sacrificed it to his hunger, he fled. He was admitted to the hospital of Versailles about six years after, in a consumption, and he died there very soon. This man was small and weak; his abdomen when full, was distended to a great size, and when empty, was quite flaccid; he had always profuse perspiration, and like other voracious animals, fell asleep when his appetite was satisfied.

On dissection M. Tesseir, chief surgeon of the hospital, found the stomach, intestinal canal, and gall bladder unusually large, and emitted an odour that the surgeon could scarcely bear.

In addition to these cases, we have known a man who played the violoncello at one of the theatres, that never felt so happy as when eating mould candles, which he indulged in enormously: and we have witnessed a meal eaten by a dragoon, consisting of the mess of four men (about 10lbs of solids) after which he swallowed two pounds of pudding, and two quarts of ale. This man was a tall emaciated figure, and was discharged from the impossibility of supplying his voracious appetite.

The cause of this disease has been stated to be acid in the stomach. We think that is an obscure definition. It is certain, that the gastric juice possesses an extraordinary degree of dissolving power; and this as well as the distension of the stomach and intestines, is likely to be produced by early habits of indulgence in eating, or worms, or both. We are more inclined to the opinion that the original predisposing cause is worms.

To relieve this horrible disease, we will lay down remedies in our next number,

GIDDINESS IN THE HEAD.

If this unpleasant and sometimes dangerous affection should arise from a fulness of habit in short necked people, every attention should be paid by the patient to remove it; for when punished it is present, there is a chance of apoplexy upon an encreased excitement. First then, let him attend to the bowels, by taking a purgative medicine, and immediately lose, from the arm about twenty ounces of blood:—immediate relief will follow. But when giddiness arises from hysteric affections, and in thin people, there is no danger to be apprehended, and the mode of treatment should be that for dyspepsia or indigestion, the consideration of which, we are unavoidably obliged to postpone for a week or two, as it requires from its use and complexity, a greater space than we at first intended it to occupy.

SYNCOPE, OR FAINTING.

Habitual fainting arises most frequently from excessive grief, or is a disease of the heart, or great blood vessels: it also occurs in people of nervous constitutions, and bad digestion, in females particularly. During the fit, strong stimulants should be applied to the nose, and cold water suffused on the face. If the fit should still continue, the breast, temples, ears, and nostrils should be rubbed with hot brandy and a spoonful of it forced into the mouth or nose. To prevent the recurrence, port wine taken at the intervals of four hours in the quantity of one glass each time, will be found beneficial, at the same time attending to the bowels.

On the Cause of Formation of Worms in the Human Intestines. From the German of Bremser, by H. S. Hymans, M. D. of Rotterdam. (Communicated by Dr. W. Philip, through Dr. Johnson.)

If it be proved that worms do not come from without into the human body, nor are innate with it, they consequently must owe their existence to some preternatural formation. The cause of this formation cannot probably be found in any thing else, than in some anomalous quality, or mixture of certain substances, nourishing, either generally or partially, some of the single organs of the body, or in a superfluity of these sub-

stances, to which cause, with the same justice as to any other, the said vermi-formation may very well be ascribed. The cause, however, of such an anomalous quality or disproportion in the nutritive substances, can only be found in a relative debility of some organs, and not in a general one. For as little as any debility may be called a disease, while the harmony of all animal functions is prevailing, just as little the said debility may be termed a cause of the formation of worms. It is only from a derangement of the functions of some separate organ, that a disease can be formed. The same then must take place whenever any formation of worms shall be effected. If for instance in the stomach, the nourishing substances prepared from the food, are congenial with the nutritive secretions; if no more substances be animalized there than the absorbent vessels of the intestinal tube are able to take up and actually have absorbed; or on the contrary, if the fluids separated from the animal body itself, agree with the quantity of substances taken up by it, in order to be animalized and become homogeneous with its own mass; in many of these cases no vermi-formation will ever occur. But if the contrary takes place, nothing is sooner effected than the aforesaid formation. This likewise may account for our often meeting with persons, who, if judged from their outward appearance, seem to be quite well, while notwithstanding this, they are harbouring worms in their intestines. The stomach and bowels, or what are called first passages, in that case seem to be in a condition of higher vitality, than required for the preservation of the organism, and therefore the action of the absorbent vessels, (which merely take up the quantity required to supply the necessarily evacuated secretions and nothing more,) is not congruent with the former condition; and in this case the quantity of matter animalized by the digestive organs, surpasses that which is absorbed by them, and thus the remaining animal substance is appointed to form a living matter, or a worm: by this we see, that in a human body, the opportunity to form worms in the intestines, as well as that to other diseases, may either be hereditary, innate, or acquired. Nay this gives a satisfactory explanation, why children more than adults, women more than men, are disposed to the vermi-formation. In both a certain debility of the absorbent vessels is constantly prevailing. It is a well known fact, that during the first months of life, children, especially those that are not suckled often, do not prosper, or at least, encrease but very little in growth or strength, in spite of the abundance of good nourishing food bestowed on them; now this is by no means to be always imputed to a want of nutrition in the food taken by them, but merely to the bad preparation of it in the stomach, and to the want of sufficient absorbance of the chyle prepared from it. In scrofulous or atrophic children, the free passage through the absorbent nourishing vessels is stopped, or at least considerably impeded, thus a great quantity of chyle remains stagnant in the intestines, in which I not only reckon the substances absorbed from the nutriments taken, but also the mixture of the substances absorbed from them, and moreover the mixture of those substances with the fluids of the body; in a word a fluid already animalized, if not evacuated by stool, in the same manner as the usual secretions, easily proceeds to a formation of worms: children of this description, as it is evident by appearance, are commonly effected with worms.

Among the more remote causes of the vermi-formation, we may, in the first place, chiefly reckon a sedentary, inactive way of life, or any other which requires little or no exertion of muscular strength; secondly, wet, damp habitations, victuals out of which a tough, slimy, or rich chyle is prepared in the stomach, and especially the frequent use of fat, mealy, and milky food. Feuilla considers the abundant use of sugar to be the cause of the more frequent formation of worms among the Indians. A sedentary way of life, most probably, is one

of the remote causes why the formation of worms, is more frequently found in women than in men. Another still greater disposition to this formation, proceeds from a constant abode in a damp habitation, which by the suppression of free perspiration, is prejudicially operating on the functions of the absorbent vessels in the bowels. If then, finally, the food is of such a quality as to forward the formation of worms, the means for this formation, at least on the side of the substantial factor, are completely afforded. It is a fact, that among sheep, the formation of liver worms is caused chiefly by the pasturing of these animals on marshy grounds, and hence in well managed sheep folds, shepherds are brought before a court of justice, whenever this or a like disease creeps into a flock; since in such cases, either their having been pastured on wet grounds, or their having, during the winter, been fed upon muddy, not well cleansed fodder, almost to a certainty may be concluded on. During wet seasons, however, the said complaint without any fault of the shepherd, causes great ravages among the sheep, and it is only by a prompt administration of better food and corroborative remedies, gentian, acorns, &c., that its further progress may in some measure be restrained.

(*To be continued.*)

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

The best emetic in approaching febrile attacks—

Take five grains of tartar emetic;
Dissolve it in two wine-glasses full of water.

The dose is a table-spoon-full every five minutes. During the operation, warm water should be drank.

—

An emetic to produce sudden effect, as in cases of vegetable poison.

Twenty grains of sulphate of zinc dissolved in a little water.—The whole to be taken.

—

MORE HORRORS AT THE TREAD-MILL!!

THE following cases are taken by Mr. Briscoe, the independent, intrepid and humane magistrate of Surry. They are selected from forty. If Mr. Holme Sumner and his *worthy* colleagues will, with such facts staring them in the face, again come forward to advocate their favourite hobby the tread-mill, they must possess that effrontery which is never connected with common sense, but is a never-failing symptom of incipient insanity.

—

Samuel Towers, Age 35.—Sentence, 3 months. On the 24th of November, Samuel Towers stated:—"I have worked three weeks on the wheel. I feel my strength going very fast. I am very much ruptured, and was born so."

On the 25th of December, I found that the surgeon had since examined him; and though, as I understood, he admitted the fact of rupture, yet conceived that he might still work on the wheel. He stated to me, "I am sometimes swelled in size equal to my two fists."

—

Edmund Caroll, Age 35.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 25th of November, Edmund Caroll stated:—"I fell off the wheel on the 25th of September last, in consequence of the hand-rail giving way, and I have suffered a great deal from a contusion of the foot."

On the 25th of December, he added:—"My foot is still very weak and much swelled, but I have gained in health and strength otherwise since I have been off the wheel."

He was not well when brought into custody, and was not put to work till the 18th of January; he remained on the wheel about six months, till the 11th of July, and was then removed into the Infirmary from a liver complaint. On the 25th of August he returned to the wheel, on which he continued to work till the 25th of September, when the above accident occurred.

—

Edward Broughton, Age 20.—Sentence, 24 months. On the 25th of November, Edmund Broughton stated:—"I have worked twenty months on the wheel. I was quite well on coming in. I am now drawn almost double, so that I can hardly move. I have a great pain and weight on my stomach, and pain in my loins and legs. If I sit down I can hardly get up again. My arm, you see, is not larger than a child's arm."

The veins of his legs were becoming varicose. On the 25th of December I found him in the Infirmary, his body dreadfully swelled, and with a degree of hardness I could not have imagined. I both saw and felt his stomach. He complained also of a great pain in his side, for which he had been cupped.

—

Robert Willy, Age 17.—Sentence, 18 months. On the 24th of November, Robert Willy stated:—"I have worked nine months on the wheel. I was quite well on coming in. I now suffer greatly from a pain in my side."

On the 25th of December I found him in the Infirmary. He had been taken off the wheel from inability to work upon it any longer. He added:—

"I am very bad indeed. I have been both blooded and cupped, and I am taking medicine."

—

John Dowley, Age 19.—Sentence 18 months. On the 25th of November, John Dowley stated:—"I have worked three months on the wheel. I was very well on coming in. I suffer now from excessive weakness and fatigue, and from great pain round my loins and legs."

On the 24th of December, I found him in the Infirmary, when he added:—

"I grew worse, and I was taken bad on the 28th with such a pain in my side, that I could not fetch my breath. I have been blooded, and I have had a blister on. I am extremely sore between my legs and in my groin. The wheel has brought me to this state.'

—

Edward Messer, Age 25.—Sentence, 2 months. I found Edward Messer in the Infirmary on the 25th of December, when he stated:—"I have worked ten days on the wheel. I was quite well on coming in. I have now a great deal of pain in my head, back, and side, and became so weak, that I could not stand upon the mill."

—

Richard Bell, Age 52.—Sentence, 21 months. On the 24th of November, Richard Bell stated:—"I have worked on the wheel eight months. I was very well on coming in. I work now in great misery. I can scarcely stand on the wheel at times."

The fleshy part of the muscle of his legs was so reduced, that the tendon only remained.

On the 24th of December, he added:—"I now also feel much pain in my stomach and left side."

—

Thomas Hart, Age 21.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 24th of November, Thomas Hart stated:—"I have worked on the wheel four months and fourteen days. I was very well on coming in. I suffer now great pain in my legs and loins, and bend of my arm, and wonderfully about my hips. I turn over twenty times at night with pain and shivery cold." He works in bandages.

On the 24th he added, "I am much the same, sometimes worse. It is owing to the wheel."

—

Thomas Smea, Age 55.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 24th of November, Thomas Smea stated:—"I have worked upon the wheel nine months. I was as hearty as a man could be on coming in, but now my body is so swelled, and I have such a violent cough. I have got a blister on."

Do you find the labour severe?

"Yes, sir; it tears a man all to pieces. My limbs too get so stiff on coming off, and then the cold strikes to me."

—

William Milford, Age 28.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 25th of November, William Milford stated:—"I have worked on the wheel eight months. I was well on coming in. I suffer now from great pain in my loins and breast. I find myself so reduced and in so weak a state that I shall not be able to get my bread."

On being asked why he did not complain to the surgeon:—"I do complain, sir," he replied; "but the surgeon tells me, it is the effect of the wheel, and there is no remedy for it."

On the 24th of December, he added:—"I now feel myself worse. My constitution is entirely decayed."

—

Thomas Webbe, Age 51.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 24th of December, Thomas Webbe stated:—"I have worked on the wheel five months. I was quite well on coming in. I have

now a violent pain in my left side, on which I have not been able to lie for three months; and I suffer much in my back and hips when at work on the wheel. I take pills by the surgeon's directions."

—

Robert Warner, Age 20.—Sentence, 6 months. On the 25th of November, Robert Warner stated:—"I have worked four months on the wheel. I was quite well on coming in. I have now a great pain in the back part of my legs, my loins, and left side. I get weaker every day. I can hardly stand upright. I know not how I shall be able to do a day's work. I have nothing to depend upon but my labour."

On the 24th of December, on receiving the same statement, I asked him why he had not complained to the surgeon?—"I have, sir, and the surgeon says there is no remedy for it. The pain in my hips, loins, and sinews of my legs is owing to the mill."

—

Joseph Lay, Age 26.—Sentence, 12 months. On the 24th of November, Joseph Lay stated:—"I have worked seven months on the wheel. I was badly when I came in, I am extremely weak, and suffer greatly from pains in my legs and loins."

On the 24th of December, he added:—"I do still. I shall not be able to do a day's work when I come out. The surgeon tells me that my weakness and pain is owing to the mill."

—

William Nash, Age 27.—Sentence, 2 years. On the 24th of December, William Nash stated:—"I was weak on coming in. I then got better, and recovered my strength as well as ever I was in my life, before the mill began. I was then pulled down to a very low degree, and was sent into the Infirmary as wardsman; and being off the wheel I got stouter. I have now been at work again. I am getting weak and losing flesh. I want to recover my health so as to be able to go to work on leaving the prison."

—

William Redman, Age 28.—Case of an untried prisoner. I found William Redman in bed in he Infirmary on the 25th of December, when he stated:—"I was very hearty on coming in. I have worked on the wheel a fortnight, but I worked in so much pain that I was taken off, I have a great pain in my head and chest, with a violent cough."

—

Henry Oakley, Age 18.—Sentence, 3 months. On the 28th of December, Henry Oakley stated:—"I have worked on the wheel five weeks. I was quite well on coming in. I slipt down on getting upon the wheel, and hurt my thigh. I continued to work till I could work no longer."

I found him in the Infirmary with an abscess in his groin.

—

William Perkins, Age, 19.—Sentence, 2 years. On the 21st of November, William Perkins stated:—"I was well on coming in. I have worked upon the wheel sixteen months. I now suffer great pain in the calves of my legs, and I feel great weakness in my loins, especially at night."

On the 28th of December, after bursting into tears, he added:—

"Nobody knows what I feel but myself. I have had my thigh broken, for which I was confined in St. Thomas's Hospital. I feel extremely weak, and have great pain in my loins. It is the work on the wheel which makes me so weak. It is such fatiguing work; and yet I have been always used to hard work. I would sooner carry coals all my life."

On the 3d of January, I understood that he had received a woollen bandage from the Governor.

—

John Fitzgerald, Age 18.—Sentence, 6 months. On the 28th of December, John Fizgerald stated:—

"I have been in prison five months, and I have worked altogether about three months on the wheel. I had the foul disease on coming in, for which the surgeons gave me a remedy. I worked on the wheel eight or nine weeks, when I was obliged to go into the Infirmary for three weeks and three days. I worked again on the wheel for ten days, and I was sent again into the Infirmary for ten days. I worked

again on the wheel for twelve days, and I was sent again into the Infirmary for seven days. I worked again on the wheel for fourteen days, when the disease broke out in blotches all over my body. I have since been in the Infirmary fourteen days."

—

James Norton, Age 28.—Sentence 6 weeks. On the 28th of December, James Norton stated:—

"I was weak and ill on coming in. I have worked on the wheel eighteen days. I was unable to work longer from pain in my left side, and great shortness of breath. I have been blistered, and am taking medicine."

—

George Smith, Age 16.—Sentence, 3 months. On the 28th December, George Smith stated:—

"I was quite well on coming in; as well as I could be."

I found him in bed with a blister on, and unable to move from pain in his side.

"The pain, sir, came on all at once."

His sentence had expired, and on the 28th of December I found him again in prison.

—

John J. Haynes, Age 36.—Sentence, 3 months. On the 28th of November, John J. Haynes stated:—

"I was well on coming in. I have worked on the wheel six weeks. I feel now great weakness and pain."

On the 28th of December, he added:—

"I continue to feel a great weakness across my loins; and I have a great trembling when on the wheel. I am worn down very much by the wheel. It is owing to the wheel, and to nothing else."

On the 3d of January, when I saw him at work he added:

"I feel pain and weakness all over me. I am now ready to drop off the wheel."

On being asked why he had not complained to the surgeon,

"I have complained to the surgeon," he replied; "and he has allowed me to have extra food."

—

Thomas Elmore, Age 19.—Sentence. On the 21st of November, Thomas Elmore stated:—

"I was well in health on coming in. I have worked five weeks on the wheel. I was unable to work longer from extreme pain in my side, and with shiverings like pins and needles."

The surgeon who was present added, "In fact he has a dysentery."

On the 28th, I found he had left the prison.

James Reid, Age 18.— Sentence, 6 months. On the 21st of November, James Reid stated:—

"I have worked twenty weeks on the wheel."

I saw him confined to his bed with an abscess in his side.

On the 28th of December, I found that he had left the prison. He had been sent to the Refuge for the Destitute, but had not been received.

—

Thomas Boniface, Age 23.—Sentence, 6 months. On the 28th of December, Thomas Boniface stated:—

"I had the foul disease on coming in of which I was quite cured. I have now such a pain in my left side and my stomach, and such a weakness in my legs. I shall not be able to do any duty when I get out. I shall never have my health as I had before, the wheel has so hurt my constitution."

He had been four times in the Infirmary, and only able to work a week the last time he was on the wheel.

—

HYDROSTATIC EXPERIMENTS.

Shewing the Ascent of Water through a Glass Tube filled with Ashes.

To the end of a glass tube 32 inches in length, and three fourths of an inch in diameter of its cavity, was tied a piece of linen cloth, and the tube then filled with ashes sifted very fine. The ashes were put in by small quantities at a time, and rammed down strongly with a rammer, whose basis was very little less than the bore of the tube; by which means the ashes were closely pressed. When the tube was full, a thin limber bladder was tied over its neck, which was freed from all its

included air, in order that it might receive the air which was expected to be forced through the ashes upon the ascent of the water, by which the experiment was to be tried. This done, that end of the tube to which the linen was tied, was plunged under the surface of water contained in a glass vessel, and immediately the water began to rise. The very first ascent was considerable, for in the space of sixteen minutes it had got up near one inch and three fourths; but as it advanced still higher, its progress was slower in the following proportions: —at the end of twenty-four hours it had risen but to sixteen inches; the bladder at the top, being then nearly half filled with air, which had quitted the ashes, as the water passed through them. Here happened an accident which prevented any farther observation of the distension of the bladder by the expelled air; for the upper part of the tube to which the bladder was tied being cracked round, dropped off; however, this did not hinder the continuation of the experiment with respect to the ascent of the water. At twenty-four hours from the last observation, I found it had gained six inches more in height. In twenty-four hours more it had risen four inches and a half in the same distance of time; again, three inches; the succeeding thirty-four hours, brought the water to the top of the tube completely.

In order to ascertain the quantity of water which had thus arisen in the tube, a glass of water was weighed, and poured into the glass vessel in which the tube was immersed until the water reached the mark at which it stood immediately after immersion; then weighing the remainder, the quantity deficient was equal to the quantity which ascended; it was 1792 grains: which is nearly equal to the bulk of seven cubic inches. Now the capacity of the tube (its diameter being three fourths of an inch, and its height 32) was about 14 cubic inches: so that the quantity of water which ascended, was equal to about one half the contents of the tube.

In this experiment it is to be remarked, that though the ashes were rammed so very close together, yet the interstices of them were capable of admitting a quantity of water equal to one half the contents of the tube: that the progress of the water, through the ashes was very disproportionate to the times: because it was found that in the equal given times of twenty-four hours, it made its way in the following proportions, 16, 6, 4¾, 3, 2, and in the following ten hours half an inch. Again, that the force with which the water made its ascent, was very considerable; being such as was sufficient to overcome the resistance of the air imprisoned in the interstices of the ashes.

Now it is plain the resistance of the contained air was not a very small one, from hence, that it was superior to the force by which the thorax is contracted, and the air thrown out of the lungs in a strong respiration; because air was tried to be forced through the tube, not above half filled with ashes, and yet could not be done effectually; whereas the water easily made itself a passage when the tube was not only quite full but the ashes pressed down as hard and close as possible:—but to put it out of all doubt, that the ascending water did actually meet with and overcome such a resistance as what is mentioned, it was visible by the gradual intumescence of the bladder at the top of the tube, that the air was protruded out of the ashes by the water as it ascended.

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EXPERIMENT, PROVING THE ASCENT OF WATER THROUGH ASHES IN VACUO.

A TUBE being filled with ashes as above, it was placed in a receiver, and the air exhausted; it was suffered to stand some time in that state, to give liberty to the air contained in the ashes to get away. Then plunging the lower end of the tube under water, it was found that the water rose much faster in that rarefied medium than in the open air; because in about four hours time it had

mounted as high as it could go, having completely reached the top of the tube. So that, comparing the result of this trial with the former, we find a height of ten inches surmounted in four hours, whereas in this other case, thirty-two inches took up one hundred and thirty hours; by which it appears that the *heights* are in the proportion of three and a half to one, but the *times* as thirty-two and a half to one. So that the water was thirty-two times as long in going in common air a space triple to that which was finished in vacuo.

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Thoughts on the Present Character and Constitution of the Medical Profession, by T. C. Speer, M. D. M. R. I. A. Late Physician to the Dublin General Dispensary. G. and W. B. Whittaker, London, and Deighton and Sons, and Nicholson, Cambridge, 1823. *pp.* 132.

THERE is hardly any object, in which the public are more vitally concerned, and yet there is none perhaps in which they manifest a less degree of interest, than in the education and acquirements of those men, to whom they entrust not only their healths but their lives. The great encouragement given to *quacks* and *unprincipled impostors* affords, we regret to state, too melancholy an attestation of this formidable truth. This preference, whether arising from prejudices or weaknesses, inseparable from our nature, is by no means confined to the ignorant or the vulgar. The palace and the cottage are alike polluted by its unhallowed entrance, and in turn becomes its habitation; and the King, no less than the peasant, has become the dupe of imposition, and the victim of his own credulity. These impositions however occur more frequently in the less exalted stations of life. That society are material sufferers from this cause, every day's experience affords the most melancholy examples.

There is a species of imposition, which, though cloaked in the garb of legal sanction, yet is nearly allied to the former, and perhaps from the greater extent and facility of its practice, entails upon society miseries equally, if not still more, afflicting. The authors of these impositions are to be found in the ranks of the medical profession, and here they are the more formidable, because their prey are the willing and deluded victims of their own ignorance and credulity.

The author before us, after a hasty consideration of the causes, political, moral and physical, by the operation of which manifest changes have been effected in our various constitutions, attributes the abuses which have crept into medicine, (for that abuses exist none will deny) to the changes in our civil and political relations. "Amongst the present signs of the time, therefore," he observes, "there is none more prominent than the pride of profession, which now, and for the latter few years have so distinguished us. As the mercantile and other ranks are failing, those of what may be termed professional life are filling up with a zeal and rapidity, which, were there no other indication of a change of character, would alone prove it," pp. 14, and 15.

"Of these professions," continues our author, "there is none more increased or increasing than that of *medicine*, or one which has undergone more remarkable changes of character and constitution. Every branch of it seems to have suffered alterations, more or less, even in the last ten years; and to say that the number of their followers and practisers has been increased in the proportion of four to one, would not perhaps be an exaggerated average statement. Indeed in the higher ranks of the profession this ratio seems under the reality. The time is not far gone by, when diseases and doctor bore some proportion to each other, and where the term doctor had, as in days of old, something, if not of sacredness, at least of orthodoxy about it." p. 17.

This redundancy in the profession is productive of many serious evils to the public. The greater the number of sick, the more likely is the contagion to spread; so the more numerous the practitioners in medicine, the more open are its ranks to the pollution of ignorance and temerity. We are borne out in the truth of this proposition by

actual fact. That ignorance and presumpti n will, by stealth, occasionally creep into the best regulated societies, is a truth which it would be folly to deny; but in the former constitution of the profession, the invalid was not bereft of the hope, that in its higher walks, he would find learning, talent, and integrity, to which he might look with confident expectation, to set aside the effects resulting from ignoranee, folly, and imposition. But now all distinctions seem levelled. The Welch quaek and the village apothecary walk into the consultation chambers of the siek;—talk of "prognosis" and "diagnosis," as if they were more familiar with these terms, than a bare acquaintance with their names, lay down indications of cure with as much gravity as the oldest professor of the University, and with as much pomp and solemnity as if they really felt conscious of their own competency.

(*To be continued.*)

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

"Doctor" Mitchel, hunter of Ship Captains, Mates, Sailors, and other Marine Gulls, Foreign and Domestic.—Late Bill Sticker to Dr. Serff.

"My Card Sir."

WHOEVER has been "on 'Change," at the hour of bustle, must certainly have jostled against this puffing blaekguard and his cards of address. To those who have not, we will describe him. He is a thin sallow looking fellow, about forty-eight, five feet seven inches in height, with powdered hair, a silky sort of hat, and a jalapy suit of blaek. His eountenance possesses a mixture of impudence and embarrassment, arising out of his wish to catch *new* customers, and to avoid the *old*. Like his brethren the piekpockets, his eyes are eternally divided in their duties—keeping out of his *done* customers' way, and full butting the "customers *to do*." When he sees a red faced, pudding coated, half Dutch-looking sort of a Captain, whose aspect bespeaks a sweet and flexible ignorance, up he bustles like Cæsar Sylvester Dionysius Daggerwood, and forks his card into his face. The amphibious dupe is glad of any one to speak to, to keep him from the embarrassing glances of the crowd, and readily reads the forerunner of his ruin, which, backed by a string of professions and boastings, from the artful assaulter, carries the citadel by a *coup de main*. They adjourn to one of the benches, the simple son of salt water, sitting on his hands to keep them employed, with a silent smile upon his half devoted front, while the insinuating Israelite leans significantly towards him, "making assurance doubly sure." The Captain now begins to reflect that "sure enough there is a bit o' summat the matter wi' him," which the quaek perceiving, replies, "Vy Captain your hies looks wery dullish." "I donna but they do," says the Captain with a stare, which is answered by a still greater stare, and knowing nod of the head. "Captain you are in a bad way." "Am I Doctor?" "S' help may eot you are."—And so off they go to this humbugger's house, forthwith, on Little Tower Hill; and as much ill compounded drugs, as he can stuff into the mouth of his victim, and as much money as he can squeeze out of his pockets, are the consequenees of the consultation. He gets the name of his ship, so down he goes next morning, and again attacks the poor Captain. We have seen at Bourdeaux, an unhappy victim of this ignorant scoundrel's audaeity and avarice, which, had any of our active legislators seen, would be sufficient to stimulate them to propose the abolition of such pests to society as the quacks. We pledge ourselves to the fact; and were it not for obvious reasons we should state the name of the Captain who suffered by this fellow's medicines, and the name of his ship. The poor sufferer was carried ashore by his crew, to lodgings, at Mrs. Harrison's boarding-house, on the Chartron. His joints were soft, his limbs worn to a skeleton, uleers all over his body, his jaws swelled, his eyes blood-shot, while the groans of the poor creature during the time they were conveying him to his lodgings, excited the utmost compassion. The short history was this. He applied three months before, to this Mitchel, and was then in full

health and strength. He remained a month under his treatment when he went to sea with four pounds "*worth*" of Mitchel's medicines to take during the voyage. He sailed to Cadiz, and from thence to Bourdeaux, without the slightest bad weather, and followed the Quack's directions, until he was reduced to the deplorable state abovementioned. Eighteen months elapsed before this young man recovered; during which time he was obliged to give up his ship. For his suffering, however, he had the satisfaction of horsewhipping the swindler, as soon as he returned to London—he absolutely whipped him out of the 'Change. This was not the only punishment Mr. Mitchel received, as the just return of his nefarious conduct; for a similar sufferer pushed him off a plank into the mud, by turning it; when the Doctor with great difficulty was dragged ashore, being only one colour from head to foot, and to the great amusement of the sailors. The following letter put us in mind of the fellow, or we should not have touched his dirty coat for a few weeks; and we trust that Doctor Courtney, of Adam Street, Adelphi, will not find fault with us, for thus placing Doctor Mitchel before him. We assure him he shall be in print next week. Before we quit Mr. Mitchel, we must inform our readers that he is of the same class of Jews as Levy, who calls himself Doctor Jordan, and equally of as low an origin. He was first a work-boy to an old clothes-man in Rosemary-lane, then gave out bills to the passengers on Tower-hill, for old Sertf, the quack, which the subsequent letter truly tells, and ultimately set up for himself.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Little Tower ill, January 31, 1821.

MR. EDDETER,

Tother day one of my pasients read to me some Meddikle Advisers about Mr. Cameron, Mr. Jordan, and Mr. Eady, calling them quacks and redeculing them; now Sur, for all I know, that all you said of them is all true, they know nothing about fissick, and its quite rite to expose them—in such people as this that makes people so bad,' but I cortion you not on no account to make free with my name in your book, cause some of my nabors read it, and I've had a regelar meddikle edecation—I lived several years with Doctor Cerf, of Tower Hill, he was in the same line as myself—he was a man *and a wife* beside, and he used to tell people when he was out as he had a man at home as know'd as much about the business has himself, and that he meant me Sur; and afore that I lived with Dr. C———, the great German fysician, and I used always to see the pashents who come to him before he did himself, cause I opened the door—I lived with the Doctor when I was only ten year old, so you see I was reglarly brought up to the trade, and my karacter is not to be made light of, so I only rite now to put you on your guard, in case any body should be informing you any thing about me—my name is Dr. Mitchell, I live on little Tower ill —

I did not rite this, I mean he did not rite it, he told me what to rite —he is just gone out—my name is Philip Tagg—I goes to St. Katerine's Charity School, and after school time, I does jobs for the doctor, and he says perhaps I may be a doctor myself by and buy, for I knows almost as much as he already, partikerly as I can read and rite besides. I forgot it afore he told me to put in this letter, that you mustn't put any thing in your books about Captain Heelken, and that the six bottels of bitters he sold him at six shillings a bottel, who thort they wasn't above eighteen pence a peace, and he thretened the captain if he wouldn't pay he'd make him, and when he paid him on Satterday, and ask'd for a receipt, he said, he mustn't rite on a Satterday, cause as he's a Jew, it's his sabbath; but that wasn't the wright reason he didn't like to say he cou'dn't rite, I rote the last lines without his tel'ing me, and he can't read it himself, but the last words he told me to rite was, that if you dared to say any thing about him, he'd indite you for a capitle offence. So I

remain your humble servant, to command,

for Doctor Mitchell,
Philip Tagg.

—

P. S. I hope, Sur, you'll excuse any words as isn't spellt wright,'cause the doctor asn't got a dictionary, and master's gone out a school, so I can't get in.

—

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

We have been informed by a military officer, lately arrived from St. Christopher's, that apoplexy is so common there, that the sentries frequently fall down in a fit on their posts. Major Edgworth, of the 35th, was attacked at breakfast by the disease, and fell suddenly from his chair; but, by the prompt assistance of the regimental surgeon, Dr. Berkley, he was restored. These men, officers and all, wear stiff leather stocks, and the above surgeon is of our opinion, that they produce apoplexy. Our argument against cravats, in our first number, thus receives additional force.

It is reported to us, that men employed about diseased horses contract a disease which they call the horse's itch; and it will not yield to any of the remedies for common itch. We are promised a more full account.

Doctor Richardson, the intrepid traveller, in a memoir which appeared in the Edinburgh Literary Gazette, states that the inhabitants of the arctic regions are so fond of the rein deer as an article of gastronymic luxury, that they eat even the *contents* of the stomach. They think that the lichen which these animals eat, when masticated and mixed with the gastric juice, is a most delightful dish!!! This will please the vegetable dieters. Doctor Richardson further states that the musk rat of those regions is as large as a cat; that the odour is exhaled from the skin, and that it only takes place at a certain time of the year. He also states that the mice are as big as common Hanoverian rats, and have scarcely any tails—myriads of them travel in close columns over the ice—the doctor supposes, in search of food.

Professor Gibson of the University of Pennsylvania illustrates the doctrine of treatment in gun shot wounds by firing balls at the dead subject. Next to the field of battle it is the best way of seeing the effect of such wounds.

Two surgeons have been sent to the tread-mill for taking a dead body! How does this accord with the motto upon their dissecting rooms, "*Hic mors gaudit succurrere vite?*" Every medical pupil educated at the University of Dublin has been "guilty" of this "offence:"—they go out with their demonstrator at their head regularly once a week in the winter, for the purpose of taking up dead bodies. We suggest the idea of calling a meeting amongst the profession, in order to petition against this unjust sentence. When pupils of the Dublin college are by chance arrested in this necessary duty, the magistrates always screen them. But many of *those magistrates* are enlightened men.

A correspondent informs us that it is lamentable to see the discipline that is adapted with the poor women at Guildford tread-mill, in spite of their haggard and debilitated state of body, since the MEDICAL ADVISER has attempted to advocate them. Our correspondent adds, that Mr.——a magistrate was heard to say that he would never consent to be dictated to in his duty by any public print, and that the more the JOHN BULL or the MEDICAL ADVISER abused the tread-mill, the more he was in favour of it! We trust that Mr. Peel will use some more effectual arguments with this dictator before long.

PHRENOLOGY:—A set of ultra phrenologists assembled last week in London, and gravely published their manifesto upon Thurtell's head, contradicting *all we stated* concerning it. They speak from a cast of the head—we *from the head itself!* Destructiveness they insist is extremely large—we said it *was not*. We have only to add that Mr. Lawrence is of our opinion—a philosopher, whose opinion is of more weight than all the socie-

ties of phrenologists together with their *heads*. The following extract from the *Times* newspaper is enough for them. Such *twisting* enthusiasts embarrass the rough road to knowledge, like fogs and rainy weather.

"The phrenologists or bumpists are determined to find confirmation of their doctrine in the skull of Thurtell; but with the usual blindness of theorists, who never see more than one part or one side of a question, they publish a statement which, (in their own data) shows, to use their own absurd jargon, that the organs of benevolence and veneration were severally as much developed as the organ of destructiveness. We will never utter a word knowingly, which can tend to repress the ardour of scientific research, but mechanical quackery must not be allowed to assume the dignity of moral philosophy."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOHN WARD *of Edinboro', shall have a letter, by Wednesday's post.*

G. G's letter shall be turned to advantage.

Let J. H. take, on the days he walks, three drachms of tincture of senna, and one of tincture of bark, when he begins to feel weak, and some time before—after dinner no malt liquor, but one or two glasses of white wine. Let him inform us whether that plan has any good effect.

We thank X. If the powder agrees with him, let him continue—if not let him leave off all medicine for a week, and then report to us. We fear he is not doing right.

Wm. C—r would oblige us by some authentic information about the Whitworth Doctors. They are the most murderous quacks in England. Hints are useful.

TYRANNUS *should use a flesh-brush, with cold water, on the soles of the feet every morning and night.*

A. W. S. should have written to us on Tuesday: we fear he is like most nervous patients; that is, in want of resolution.

G. C. K. must apply nothing to the teeth, let him take a grain and a half of opium every night, and a purgative every second morning for four days. If this will not relieve, let him have the teeth extracted by a proper Dentist.

If E. H. and M. G. send their addresses, they shall have a letter each on their cases.

The Communications of Dr. Venables, of Henley and Clia—and the essay on Phrenology, are received.

W. L. W——s case is dreadful, he has treated the case in a most unhappy manner; let him send his address and he shall have advice.

M. G. of Newark, shall have a letter directed to the Post Office of that place.

W. W—l—t., must take an emetic and let us know in two days after how he feels.

We wish to hear from R. M. D.

T. A. St. John's-street, must take the tonic mixture, in page 41, Med. Adv., every morning, and middle of the day, and keep his bowels regular by the purgative pills page 32.

Our Essays on Indigestion and Hypochondria, are unavoidably postponed for a week or two.

If in the hurry of business any of our Correspondents are unnoticed, we request them to repeat their applications.

J. T. and A. P. next week.

TERRAM, *shall have a letter at our publishers.*

A FRIEND TO TRUTH *is warned of* CATON. *He is only a puffing advertiser, and we are surprised he was ever admitted a member.*

Neb Dirpe's *witty letter is a favour highly esteemed.*

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

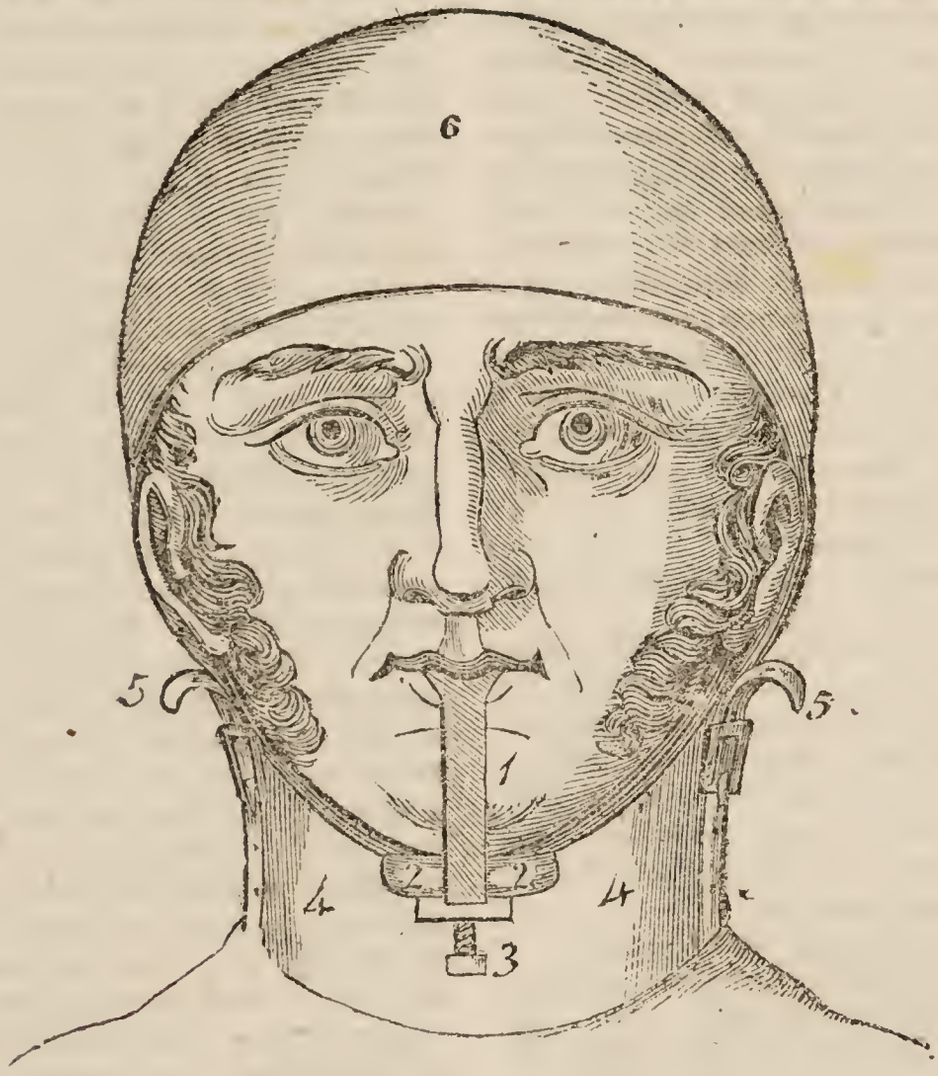
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, MD.

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IMPROVED INVENTION FOR FRACTURES OF THE JAW.

THE instrument described by the plate above, is an improvement upon that used by Mr. Bush, who has given his opinions upon it in the 48th Vol. of the London Medical and Physical Journal. Mr. Bush's instrument consisted merely of the iron plate which hooks upon the under teeth, lined with leather, the cushion, the screw and strings to tie it round the neck. To these we have added a collar of leather, to be attached behind by a strap to the posterior part of a leather cap, and at each side also in a similar manner. Thus the broken edges of the bones may be kept in apposition to a certainty; whereas without the cap, collar and straps, the instrument can never be retained upon the jaw for the necessary time. Considering the extent to which the pugilistic art is now carried, and the frequent fractures of the jaw which must attend the practice, we think this instrument may be of positive advantage.

1. Iron Plate.
2. Cushion.
3. Screw.
4. Collar.
5. Side Straps.
6. Leather Cap.

NIGHT-MARE.

(Concluded.)

HAVING in our preceding numbers detailed the nature of this disease, we now proceed to the cure. When disturbed dreams, startings from sleep, &c. announce the approach of night-mare, the person so threatened, ought to lose no time in restoring his digestive organs, if possible, to a healthy state; by pursuing the mode of treatment, which we shall point out under the head of *dyspepsia* or *indigestion*, in our next number; and by so doing he may entirely prevent the confirmation of this afflicting complaint. But where the paroxysms are complete something else must be done to relieve immediately. The best mode then for a person to pursue who is thus afflicted, is to take, every second day, the following aperient medicine:

Rhubarb, fifteen grains

Carbonate of potass, ten grains—mix in a little water.

Exercise in the open air with agreeable company, and detaching the thoughts from unpleasant courses; must be particularly attended to; and at night, on going to bed, half a pint of hot port wine with cloves and cinnamon must be drank—one hour after the following powder

Carbonate of soda, twenty grains

Aromatic powder, five grains—dissolve in a little water with sugar.

Should the paroxysm come on in the night, the above powder should be again repeated, and a little brandy; but with attention to the simple remedies above mentioned, we think the paroxysm will not appear, unless indeed in the most confirmed cases.

People who suffer severely from night-mare, would do well to have a person to sleep in the room with them, for the purpose of waking them when the paroxysm is coming on. They should eat light digestible food, chiefly animal, food; and by no means eat suppers. With patients who can bear it, a pint of wine, hot, at night, may be tried, when half a pint does not produce a remission of the paroxysm. No malt liquor should be used, bad wines, nuts, potatoes or fat meat; if however the patient takes malt liquor, let twenty grains of carbonate of soda be dissolved in the draught.

TREATMENT OF VORACIOUS APPETITE.

THIS horrible disease, the nature of which we have explained in our last number, is to be attacked by those remedies which are best calculated to deaden the nervous power of the stomach, and physicians have pointed out the use of oils and fat meat for that purpose; which we think by no means calculated to remove the disease, when it arises to any height: for in such a case as that horrible cannibal Terrare, described in our last number, oils and fat meats would have been but affording him a delightful meal; however, in slight cases, oils are good. The remedies which will be attended with the best effects are tobacco and opium; the free use of which, we think, cannot fail. Both should be administered slowly, at first, and increased until the patient is reduced to extreme debility. To this should be added a diet consisting of sugar, bread and milk. With each article of food should be mixed a portion of the patient's medicine: for instance tobacco alternately with opium, so as to make the food unpalatable; and in case constipation should be induced by the opium, then aloes in solution should be given. This plan we mean only to apply to extreme cases: in milder stages, a grain of opium taken twice a day, and smoking tobacco immediately previous to each meal, will moderate any appetite that has not become a confirmed disease. Constipation, however, must be guarded against by occasional aperients. Voracious appetite is a lamentable affliction, and is very frequently brought on by a habit of indiscriminate eating in childhood. Children should be fed moderately, and at regular hours, nor permitted to eat any thing but the ordinary articles of food.

MELANCHOLY AND DEBILITY IN YOUTH.

EXCESSIVE nervous excitement, mental or physical, is the original cause of melancholy and debility. Excessive passion, or excessive nervous action, alike produce these effects. Youth is the time for the fullest operations

of those causes, and therefore we see many persons fall victims to debility thus brought on; particularly in great cities, where from the contact of society, the mind's precocity far outruns the physical organization. Thus youth of both sexes are the most frequent subjects for consumption, and many of them either wither suddenly or waste into slow and melancholy death. A greater number of young girls between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, and of young men between eighteen and twenty-four, fall victims to what they call *love*, than to any other particular class of disease; and more particularly in England and Ireland than in any other country on earth. This is from the force of early impressions peculiar to these countries, and of comparatively recent growth—the effect produced by a certain class of romance writers, at the head of which stand the names, Lewis and Radcliffe, and in the minor ranks all the sickly blue stockings of Newman's. These writers give an obliquity to the young mind, which leads to destruction. Scarcely has a young girl laid down her "*Reading made Easy*," than she becomes a subscriber to some trashy library, and the hours which, in the country, or in a land where education is unknown, they would employ in jumping about in the open air, are now consumed with intensity of thought upon the maudlin miseries of some hapless heroine of romance, the abortion of a diseased brain. Her "*imitativeness*," as Spurzheim would phrenologically observe, becomes developed, and she fixes on her favourite heroine, who she apes in every thing—sighing for her sorrow and moaning to be as miserable. She fixes immediately upon some figure of a man—some Edwin, or Edgar, or Ethelbert—which she thinks will harmonize with the horrors of the picture. and she then enjoys her tears and her tortures to her heart's satisfaction. Languor, inaction, late hours, late rising and incessant sighing derange her digestion—paleness, loss of appetite, and general debility follow—the cause continues, the effects increase, and hectic fever puts an end to the romance. We have known a young Irish lady who read herself into this situation. She was at the age of thirteen as lively, as healthy, and as beautiful a little promise of womanhood as that country ever produced. When the Leadenhall street troop of romancers crossed her way, an officer of a very different sort of troop became her hero. She would "sit in her bower," (the second floor window) and gaze—and gaze—and gaze upon his steed, his helmet and its streaming black-haired crest, as he passed to mount guard, until she sobbed aloud in ecstacy of melancholy. She never spoke to this "knight," nor did she even seek to have his acquaintance—lest, perhaps, that a formal proposal, a good leg of mutton dinner, and all the realities of domestic happiness might dissipate the sweet romantic misery she so much delighted in. A year passed over—"she pined in thought, and with a green and yellow melancholy," entered a convent, (for that is the climax of romance) where she died in a few months!

Similar effects are frequently exemplified in young men; but by no means so often as in girls; however, debility and melancholy are but too often the attendants upon them, from causes of a somewhat different nature.

When the digestion begins to be disordered by such affections, it is high time to be alarmed; and the remedies, which we shall hereafter lay down under the head of "*Indigestion*," should be adopted. If the disease becomes confirmed, and constant melancholy with extreme debility are established, every thing that tends to banish the exciting cause must be observed—such as theatres, travelling, company, frequent and small portions of wine—the patient's time should never be unoccupied from morning till night—he should never be alone, nor suffered to dwell upon the consideration of his disease, except with a view of rising his hopes. Travelling in good weather through a populous country, and in company with others, is the best of all possible expedients; and if this cannot be accomplished, as much diversity of scene as possible should be obtained. It will have the best effects in such cases, to let the patient habituate

himself to chewing rhubarb root in the middle of the day, occasional electricity, brushing the teeth and gums with a hard tooth-brush with spring water morning and night, and the warm bath, with a flesh brush once a week. They should by no means use those stimulating quack balsams and tinctures, such as Drs. Solomon's or Jordans' Gilead or Rakasiri, which only adds oil to fire, and by temporary counter excitement, will as certainly destroy the patient, as the undisturbed cause of his malady.

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DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Aphthæ ; or, *the Thrush.*

This disease is not so common in England, as upon the Continent; however it is frequent enough amongst us. It arises from acidity in the stomach and intestines: from worms, bad food, or improper suck. The milder form of the disease is when the specks run into excoriations, and ulcers only extend to the inside of the mouth and tongue, beginning at the angles of the lips, returning and receding frequently; but in the more severe form, the ulceration continues its course throughout the whole alimentary canal—the spots first appearing white, and then becoming black. When any considerable degree of fever attends the complaint, it is depending upon the acrid contents of the bowels; fever, however, is not a constant nor very frequent attendant upon Thrush. When the disease commences, or is not far advanced, or is of the milder order, is the time for the nurse to treat the infant. A gentle emetic must be first given, which may be done by dissolving in half a wine glass full of water, two grains of tartar emetic, and giving a teaspoon full of the mixture every five minutes, until vomiting is produced. —After the operation of this, the child should be allowed to repose; and should the emetic have operated copiously upon the bowels, nothing else should be given that day and night, except emolient injections, which may be used every day during the disease. A good one is—a quarter of a pint of gruel, very thin, and a little oil. When the bowels are free, a gargle must be used, made in the following manner: Infuse a few dried rose leaves in half a pint of boiling water for half an hour, to this add twenty drops of sulphuric acid, and a little honey, so as merely to make it a little sweet. This gargle should be used eight or ten times a day. Should the bowels not be operated upon by the emetic, a powder of rhubarb and magnesia is the best purgative, and should be administered as soon as the child has recovered from the effects of the emetic. Warm milk and water is the best drink unless the child is sucking; in which case the breast milk is all that is necessary.

When the disease runs into the state above-mentioned, that is, ulcerating the intestines, and the spots in the mouth become black and foul, recourse must be had to the best advice, which in most cases will be but doubtful. The same plan here recommended, will be proper to follow, and the injections will be indispensable.—Should excessive purging accompany the disease, it will be well after the administration of rhubarb and magnesia, to give three or four grains of the powder of contrajerva twice a day, to which may be added two drops of tincture of opium; but must be left off when the purging ceases. When the disease has receded, it will be well to give the rhubarb and magnesia every three or four days for a fortnight.

—

BATHING.

We insert the following letter for the consideration of some of our scientific readers, who may perhaps furnish *arguments* upon the subject. The writer has merely given his *bare assertion ;* yet the subject is capable of hypothetical reasoning. We refrain from the examination of it, because we mean to treat of bathing fully in the proper season.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

Sir,

Being frequently in the habit of bathing in the Medway, during the summer seasons, I should feel much obliged by your informing me, through the medium of the

Medical Adviser, which is the healthiest time of tide for such recreation.

The reason why I consult you on the subject is this :—I fancy to have discovered two distinct properties in water, an accelerating, and a retarding property; the former attending the flowing—the latter the ebbing tide.

For instance: suppose an ailing person should go into the water when the tide is flowing; the water at that time, (according to this hypothesis,) would accelerate and increase the disorder, to the great injury of the patient: whereas, should the person in question go into the water when the tide is ebbing, the water at that time would not only retard, but carry off the disorder, to the great benefit of the patient. I have mentioned this theory to several persons, most of whom treated it as a groundless whim; but be that as it may, I assure you, I am so far wedded to it, that were I to be bitten by a mad dog, and desired to go into the water on that account, I absolutely would not go, if the tide was flowing, although I might have to wait three or four hours for its turning.

With regard to myself, I cannot say that I ever experienced much inconvenience from swimming when the tide has been flowing, but I have frequently thought, after coming out of the water when the tide has been going down, that my spirits have been lighter, my voice stronger, and my body much more refreshed, than when I have been swimming at an opposite time of tide.

I am sir,
Your very obedient servant,
W. CLARK.

Chatham, Feb. 4th, 1824.

—

ON OXALIC ACID.

MR. EDITOR,

I PERCEIVE that in the 4th No. of your Adviser, you have done me the honor to notice a production of mine, trifling indeed from the simplicity of the Philosophy, but highly important from the safety which it proposes to secure to the public.

The plan which you yourself propose for the attainment of the latter object, I think, upon reflection, you will admit to be, if not wholly impracticable, at least attended with considerable difficulty of adoption. The wholly transferring the sale of oxalic acid to the oil and colour-men, would be depriving the chemist and druggist of a very profitable portion of his business, and therefore it is not probable that the chemist or druggist would readily give up so important a branch of his retail-trade; nor indeed, is it to be presumed, that he would consent to such a measure at all, unless compelled so to do, by the interposition of the legislature.

But supposing so harsh and unjustifiable an extremity resorted to, it appears to me very questionable, whether it would afford the security anticipated. In the first place it must be observed that even the oil and colour shops dispense Epsom salts: and certainly the mistake of substituting oxalic acid for Epsom salts, the poisonous agent for the salutary medicine is much more likely to occur with those so wholly unacquainted with the physical and chemical properties of these two substances, as we must naturally presume oil and colour-men to be. We are next to consider that though the legislature may have the power to confine the sale of oxalic acid to oil and colour-men, still they cannot transfer the preparation of it to the same hand; so the legislature may, by an unjustifiable interdiction, restrict the advantages of trade to one class of society, but they cannot by any enactment, endow those whose educations have not prepared them for it, with the qualifications necessary for the successful practice of a chemical art.

Hence then it is manifest that the preparation of oxalic acid must remain with the chemist, and consequently his laboratory and store-house must be constantly supplied with this article, and of course the possibility of mistake, under even the harshest measures, must still exist. It will therefore be infinitely more satisfactory to the individual, who may be under the necessity of taking Epsom salts, to be furnished with the means of satisfying his doubts, and quieting his apprehen-

sions, than to have them consigned to other hands in whom he cannot confide with such unlimited faith.

Upon the lecture itself, I would observe, that although at the time of its delivery and publication, several invidious and ill-natured comments were passed, both upon it and the author,* still I feel great satisfaction in declaring that since the delivery of this lecture, at Henley, in October, 1822, there has not been a single death from oxalic acid, but one; and this case was one of suicide, the individual taking oxalic acid, with the fixed determination of poisoning himself, as appears from the verdict of the coroner's jury.

While upon this subject I cannot but advert to an article under the head of "MEDICAL POLICE," in Dr. Paris's Medical Jurisprudence. "The careless substitution," he observes, "of one drug for another, must be also considered as a prolific source of mischief; this frequently happens in the shop of the chemist and druggist, where it is least excusable; at other times it occurs from the negligence of some individual, who leaves a poisonous substance in company with articles that are intended for ordinary use. *Oxalic acid*, to which so many deaths have been lately attributed, may serve as an instance; in its external characters it bears such a resemblance to those of common Epsom salts, as readily to deceive the ordinary observer; and as both substances very frequently become articles of retail custom, they are usually kept ready for sale, in parcels of an ounce each, a practice which renders a careless substitution an error of common occurrence; the employment of a particularly coloured paper, that of yellow for instance, if used universally as a wrapper for poisonous articles, upon which the word poison or dangerous might be legibly printed, would to a certain degree guarantee the safety of the purchaser; but as danger might notwithstanding be apprehended in the night, a paper of a distinct texture might afford additional security; the peculiar roughness of the Dutch filtering paper, which is a manufactured from woollen, would answer such a purpose."*

With every due deference I beg to offer the following observations upon this passage. In the first place Dr. Paris's proposal would afford no security where the poisonous article has been negligently and carelessly left with others, unless it were folded in its appropriate wrapper, label, &c. In the second volume of his work, p. 315, he observes.—"On account of the strong resemblance, which the crystals of this acid,† bear to those of sulphate of magnesia, or Epsom salts, many fatal accidents have occurred. We are not aware that it is ever purchased, in retail, for any other purpose than as a detergent, to clean the tops of boots;" —I know that it is an article in extensive use among the straw-bonnet makers, for the purpose of bleaching the straw, and it is generally purchased by them in retail quantity. A very respectable female in this business, a few months since related to me the following story. Her daughter was ill, and she had dissolved some Epsom salts, (as she conceived,) for her in a glass. She had taken it from a drawer, where, she had been informed by one of the family, that a paper containing Epsom salts was placed. Previously, however, to her daughter swallowing it, she thought she would test it in the manner directed in the lecture.* The salt was dissolved in hot water to diminish the bulk of the saline draught, and hence the solution was rather concentrated. "Judge," said she, "of my feelings, when I discovered that the blue colour of the paper was changed to red! and of my sensations when I discovered that I had taken the salts from the wrong drawer!!!" Suffice it to say, that she had in mistake, taken oxalic acid for Epsom salts; and although it is more than probable that in this instance the concentrated state of the acid solution would have discovered the nature of the mistake to the individual, yet I think the circumstance

* Vide Courier and Oxford Herald.

* Medical Jurisprudence, by Paris and Fonblanque, Vol. 1. p. 141.

† Oxalic acid and acid of sugar.

* I had furnished this family with a few copies of the lecture, and a little litmus paper, for their own use, and that of their friends.

affords ample proof of the value of the test under ordinary circumstances.

I cannot agree with Dr. Paris, when he states that the keeping oxalic acid, and Epsom salts, ready prepared in packets for sale, renders the careless substitution a common occurrence. When these articles are kept ready packed, they are generally labelled, "oxalic acid"—"poison" being legibly printed on the acid of sugar packets; and therefore a substitution under such circumstances must be attended with diminished danger. The greater proportion, however, of mistakes have occurred, from the inexperienced apprentices, undertaking to dispense Epsom salts, and taking the salts from a wrong drawer, and unluckily from one containing oxalic acid. If he were obliged to introduce a slip of litmus-paper with every packet of Epsom salts. and to fold it in a wrapper with printed instructions as suggested in the lecture, I think the danger from any mistake or wrong substitution would be considerably diminished.

The proposal of Dr. Paris, namely, the colour or consistence of the wrapper, does not meet the difficulty, and even if it did, must be much less satisfactory to the patient, who if any way timid or apprehensive, can scarcely be divested of doubts or fears for his safety, unless it be made unequivocally manifest to his own senses.

I fear, Mr. Editor, I have already trespassed too much on your time and patience, but I trust should you think these observations worth your notice, that you will do away with every possibility of misunderstanding. I have not the honour of being personally acquainted with Dr. Paris, but I think I may boast of an intimacy, which reflects infinitely more credit upon the parties, than a mere ceremonious introduction :—I mean an acquaintance through the medium of his professional works. The avowal of this very acquaintance necessarily supposes a deference on my part, when advancing the slightest criticism upon the observations of so scientific and experienced a physician; and it is the philosophical spirit, which is so ably and perspicuously displayed in all his productions, that has encouraged me to comment upon the article under discussion.

I fearlessly appeal to Dr. Paris himself, for the truth of the following proposition.

"The chemical properties of bodies lead to more certain and accurate discrimination than any other characters which they possess."

Philosophy and science are the safest guides where their principles are applicable,

"Hæc nusquam quidem non est."

Were the mariner to reject the advantages of his QUADRANT, and to rely wholly upon the accuracy of his log-book, he would find himself frequently in error, and his labour often doubled, if not attended with more serious consequences. So were we to depend upon the mechanical properties—colour and consistence of paper—as a means applicable to the discrimination of oxalic acid, from Epsom salts, I fear it would require greater precaution and more assiduous attention to insure its efficacy, than would prove sufficient to effect our purpose, without any such assistance.

Yours, &c. &c. &c.
ROBERT VENABLES.

Henley, January 26th, 1824.

—

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Drinking Sea Water.

THIS, under the idea which is at present abroad concerning its use, is a bad practice. We should never recommend it as a purgative, while a solution of Epsom salts can be obtained; but in the dose of half a wine glass full to children, or a wine glass full to adults, it acts as a good tonic.

—

Liquorice and Lemon Juice Drink, &c. &c. for Colds.

ALL these decoctions would be better substituted by five grains of squill pill taken at night with a draught of hot whey or hot lemonade.

—

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

—

IN our 9th number, we gave prescriptions for sodaic powders. The proportionate quantities there mentioned

will produce a laxative effect. If that effect be not desired, the following proportions may be substituted.

Sodaic Powders.

Six drachms of carbonate of soda, divided into twelve parts in blue paper.

Five drachms of tartaric acid, into twelve parts in white paper—dissolve each in a separate glass—and mix.

Seidlitz Powders.

Merely add to each dose of the above carbonate of soda

Two drachms of Rochelle salts.

This latter proportion may with some be preferred to that in our 9th number. Seidlitz powders, to produce good effect, should be taken before breakfast.

—

Thoughts on the Present Character and Constitution of the Medical Profession, by T. C. Speer, M. D. M. R. I. A. Late Physician to the Dublin General Dispensary. G. and W. B. Whittaker, London, and Deighton and Sons, and Nicholson, Cambridge, 1823. *pp.* 132.

(Concluded.)

"The title to practice as a physician is now so easily obtained at some of the Scotch universities, (the principal requisite being 25*l.*) that the illiterate apothecary the moment he has realized a competent independence from his trade, aspires at nothing less than the once honourable appendage of M.D.—'Hic mihi qualis erat! quantum mutatus ab illo'—which having obtained from Aberdeen or St. Andrew's, he starts as a physician with as much boldness, as if he were even capable of writing a prescription; yet he assumes as much pomposity as if he felt conscious of his capability fully to discharge the duties of this sacred character with credit to himself, advantage to the public, and honor to the profession.

"Were degrees and diplomas from colleges," continues Dr. Speer, "licences from halls, and certificates from hospitals less easily obtained, we need not observe how much this confidence would be improved, how much the profession and the public would be benefited. Although our new age of light has materially changed our systems of belief, yet when the appeal to merit or demerit in a particular art becomes strengthened by being collected into a smaller compass, the people will always give it a share of their confidence," p. 103.

The remedies for these evils rest partly with the professors, and partly with the public. Let the professors be more strict in their examinations of candidates—the public more scrupulous as to those in whom they place their confidence. Let the latter rely on none but those who possess respectable testimonials; and as the list of the College of Physicians is the only sure guide, as far as respects the higher ranks of the profession, to which the public can command access, they would do well to confide to none who, in default of this criterion, cannot offer one equally satisfactory.

With respect to the work itself, we profess ourselves fully satisfied, not only with its principles, but its execution. Its style is forcible and impressive, but we fear it will tend but little to remove those evils, which though we none of us can lessen, we must all equally deplore.

—

PHRENOLOGY.

[We willingly insert the following Essay, because it treats in a cool and temperate strain the Science of Phrenology, however doubtful the reasoning of the writer. We are neither ultras nor ridiculers of the science, and therefore are happy in giving our support to fair discussion.]

Phrenology has at present so many avowed disciples, who in the fulness of their faith, have endowed it with those honours, which are due only to the most abstruse sciences, that it is certainly worthy to become a subject of discussion: and, though it would undoubtedly give us greater pleasure to laugh at the absurdity of its doctrines, to ridicule the arbitrary decisions of its high-fronted and oval-headed followers, than to honour it with even the faintest shadow of a serious thought; yet so long as the names of men of science are found in the lists of its professors, and others of decided talent are either wavering on the verge of belief, or asserting that it is partially true; we must,

though reluctantly, treat it with something resembling respect, and not cast it aside with a contemptuous haste to rank among those learned studies, astrology and palmistry .

The craniologists imagine that as we have organs for receiving sounds; for detecting the forms and colours of objects; in fact, for every thing relative to the material world; so, in like manner, we possess others for performing what until now have been designated mental operations. They consider a small cavity in the skull, or, more properly speaking, the portion of brain deposited in it, as an organ which endows us with some particular talent, feeling or passion; and assert, that if we do not possess the one, we must be as destitute of the other, as a man without eyes of the power of vision.

The believers in this extraordinary science do not, however, go quite so far as to assert that poetical ideas are enclosed in one hollow of the skull, and witty sayings in another.—No: they have not quite decided on the method by which the brain performs its important functions, but are expecting the publication of a new theory resolving this very difficult problem: and, it is whispered that the author of this curious system of metaphysics will make ideas a material substance floating in the form of a subtle ether, which easily penetrating the skull, acts on the respective organs, after the manner of its elder brethren, the fluids of light, heat, electricity and attraction.

Arguments in favour of phrenology I have almost tried in vain to draw from several who were not merely professed believers, but studiers of the system also; and, were I to put together all those that I have heard in its defence, they would only consist of a very few, which were principally deduced from the following causes: 1st. The loss of reason produced by drinking spirits. 2d. That the brain of persons who have died mad has generally been found to be diseased or injured. 3d. That people in deep meditation usually contract the brows or support the forehead with the hand; and, that a giddy stupidity usually oppresses us after such study, when it has been continued too long. 4th. A collection of well authenticated anecdotes.

If we must believe, because they bring forward a numerous collection of anecdotes; what can we say in our defence for not yielding likewise to the numerous arguments of this nature in favour of supernatural appearances? Even Dr. Johnson confessed himself staggered by the apparent well-attested stories of apparitions which he was continually hearing. It would be treating those who contend for the truth of phrenology with sufficient respect, were we to give them the little book of accredited ghost-stories, and say,—disprove those and then we will listen to you: for, of course, according to their philosophy, the possible existence of a shadowy and immaterial being would be a ridiculous supposition — our heads are our souls the cherubims at our altars are the exact representation of the craniologist's idea of an angel a cranium winged.

In like manner with their anecdotes as with those of fortune-tellers, hardly any are ever recorded but what are favourable to their respective sciences. It is likewise nearly impossible to prove them wrong in their assertions: if they say a person has such an organ strongly developed, it must be indeed an extraordinary accident, if they cannot find something in his conduct, some little peculiarity, or long established habit, on which to rest their defence. To my own knowledge a case occurred which is worth relating:—a craniologist had stated that in the head of a person of my acquaintance, caution was strongly developed—many of his friends declaimed against it; it so happened that in the course of conversation he mentioned having got wet through, and that on his return home, he had put on dry stockings and shoes—this was enough. The disciple of Spurzheim considered it sufficient proof of the accuracy of his decision. Another friend of mine was told that the most prominent organs in his head are caution and order, that both are very strong, and that determinativeness is

very full, the forehead not remarkable. He is however singularly careless, and as he does not put on dry clothes when he gets wet with the same regularity as any other acquaintance, they are obliged to support themselves on some other little habit, which he has contracted either to please his grandmother, or in obedience to his nurse.

So much for the examples which we are told ought alone to be sufficient for our conviction; and, were we to admit such arguments as the others I have mentioned, which are the only ones I have ever heard in its favour, the number of similar and equally evident systems, which might with facility arise, would be infinite. Even podology, or the art of ascertaining a man's character by inspecting his feet, which was promulgated through the medium of the Album, and intended as a satire on the science before us, might be quite as well supported; and, that which reads the moral perfections and defects of a person, at the same time with his hand-writing, much better. I have seen many who, when thinking, bite their nails, a piece of card, or the tops of their pens; but it would have been too palpably absurd, to infer from thence that ideality lay in their fingers or their goosequills: yet it might be done with equal justice. We all know, that if we are in pain, it is almost impossible sufficiently to forget it, to think on any thing like an abstruse subject, and that even a tooth-ache is enough to produce something like stupefaction. We likewise know, that a moderate walk through the snow will produce a giddiness by reason of the extreme susceptibility of the nerves of the eye: can we therefore be astonished to find that when the still more tender nerves of the brain are injured, it should produce the effects of madness?

That languor and stupidity succeeds to deep thought, is undoubtedly true, but that alone is no argument in favour of craniology: "We are fearfully and wonderfully made," our Creator has decreed that both our minds and bodies shall require rest; and, are we therefore at liberty to assert, that they are one and indivisible? That the gout is independent of the body, we have the authority of the Bible to plead as the excuse for our belief; and, so long as the philosophy it teaches is considered perfect, no other argument is required to upset the whole system of the deluded phrenologists.

Thus we see that the bare possibility of there being the smallest particle of truth in craniology, involves us in a question of much deeper importance than its followers appear to suppose—viz. the connection of the body with the soul; and I cannot possibly comprehend any, who having considered it in that light, yet remain the defenders of its doctrines, as being at all removed from atheism.

That there should, however, be many proselytes to its rather fascinating theories, I am not at all surprised; it is easy to yield so much credence as a wavering mind implies to a science, of which if the truth were demonstrated we should be immediately invested with either benevolence, the capability of keeping secrets, the wish of collecting knowledge, high courage, a hatred to foolish brawls, &c.—Destructiveness is the only one to which they have given a vicious denomination, and their theory of human nature makes the absence even of this something like a weakness, intended for comfort to those in whom it is strongly developed. The next step to indecision of mind is learning the situations of the several organs; and then, the new disciple of craniology is no longer an unprejudiced observer of mankind, but studies it with jaundiced eyes, and by faith is soon made perfect. Before, however, I can yield my assent to the truth of the doctrines of phrenology, it is absolutely necessary that every particle of our present system of philosophy should be refuted.

Until body and soul are proved to be one substance, and that the decay of the brain is the annihilation of the spirit, I shall always look on every thing that carries the subject farther than the peculiarities of feature produced by the habitual expression of some particular feeling or passion, as gross absurdity.

On the Formation of Worms in the Human Intestines, by Bremser.
(Continued.)

"HOLLAND and Switzerland, besides a great many parts of other countries, are chiefly looked upon as being those where worm diseases are most frequent. As to the inhabitants of the latter, it will hardly be possible to explain the cause of the more frequent formation of worms among them. Scarcely can this cause be sought in the state of the atmosphere, which in this mountainous country, is of quite an opposite nature to the level Netherlands. With no more justice can it be supposed to reside in the quality of the food, since, at least in the somewhat larger towns, the way of life in this respect, is of no material difference, with that of the neighbouring countries. Perhaps milk and cheese are the only victuals to be charged with it in this instance; the former indeed, not so much on account of its being more frequently taken, but chiefly on account of its richness in nutritive substances, it being given on the spot, unmixed with water, or unadulterated, that is to say in its natural condition: — on purpose, I said, perhaps, since I give this assertion, merely as a fugitive supposition of mine, which most willingly I shall retract as soon as this, among the Switzers more frequent occurrence of worm diseases and especially of the tape worm, which their neighbours are almost entirely ignorant of, shall be explained to me in a more satisfactory manner.

"Among the Germans, the greater part of the French, the Italians, and even among the inhabitants of Tyrol, no other than ring worms are found; whereas a true Switzer born from a Swiss mother, never yet has suffered by the ring worm. Among the Russians and Poles, the tape-worm likewise is met with; whilst Rudolphi, according to his assertion, has never received any other but the ring-worm out of Sweden. Then the cause could very well lie in a certain peculiar disposition of the human race, from which each of the aforesaid nations descend, and whose primitive ancestors, with regard to the Russians and Swedes, are different. But from whence have the Switzers got the same worms as are found among the Russians? This has been until now an enigma, and certainly will remain so for a long lapse of time yet to come.

"Among the Belgians the quality of the atmosphere or of the clime, which is already exerting so great an influence upon the temper of the nation, may very well be one of the common causes of the vermi-formation. But it is quite a mistaken notion to suppose that the more frequent feeding upon fish should be any wise contributive to this formation. According to Rudolphi, there are besides the Dutch, many other coasters, who not less than them, make use of fish meals, and who, for all that, do not suffer more than they by worm diseases. The late professor Reinlieu, having been, during ten years a Physician to the Carthusian Friars, who make use neither of meat nor milk in their diet, but chiefly feed upon fish, asserts that he never found one of them who suffered by the tape-worm, nor could one of the oldest among them recollect ever to have seen one of his fellow monks affected with this disease. Nevertheless the quality of the food may, sure enough, be greatly contributive to the formation of worms; of which instance, Reinlieu communicates two very remarkable occurrences. But how evidently soever these two related instances seem to prove, that the abundant use of milky and mealy food is an inducing cause to the formation of worms, yet we can never look upon this otherwise than as its being only the one factor, or rather the half of the one factor, namely of the substantial one; and still the individual bodily constitution remains an object of peculiar interest; for it is only when this is likewise calculated for the formation of worms, that such a formation actually can take place. The dish of peas or lentils, which appeases the stomach of the day-labourer, certainly will not be more flatulent than the peas of lentil soup, of which the hypochondriac scarcely takes a mouthful: nevertheless the first does not feel from this the least oppression, his bowels remain unhurt, whilst the latter if tormented in such a manner, by

ome cubic inches of air, that cannot easily find their issue, as if he were to be delivered of the Antichrist. In the very same manner the nutriments, with regard to the formation of worms, operate very differently in the different bodily constitutions. In Tyrol, the country people make use of flesh meats in their meals, only four or five times a year, and yet for aught I know they are not very particularly afflicted with worm diseases. The nourishment of the convicts in the House of Correction in this place (Vienna,) consists merely of liguminous and mealy food, and with this they are compelled to labour and even very hard, which they also often do in the open air, the good quality of which is particularly taken care of. Counsellor Guldener administered to this house, in the quality of Physician, during the space of fourteen years, and assured me that among those prisoners, worm diseases but very seldom occurred. Milk and its products, butter and cheese, as we have already observed, then would perhaps be the only nutriment which, much more than any other food, could be looked upon as favouring the formation of worms. Moreover of all sorts of vegetable and animal substances, milk seems to be the richest in nutritive essence; the frequent and early formation of the cheese-mites, already strongly speaks in favour of this supposition. Though I only communicate it as such, and by no means intend to give it as a fact: moreover the notion that liguminous or mealy food should be less nourishing than flesh meats, is a mere prejudice of the modern schools:—the above mentioned instance relating to the inhabitants of Tyrol, who certainly are a stout, healthy, vigorous set of people, is sufficient to remove every doubt on this subject. In former times it was likewise supposed that the seed of worms was brought into the human body by the use of worm-eaten fruit, the diet, of any such worm abiding inside the fruit, being considered as being its egg. A supposition which in our present times certainly does not require any refutation.

"However if worms are once formed out of themselves, or if they have procreated themselves within the human body, they can, even when the causes that first brought on their formation are removed, propagate by copulation; since all worms, known to abide in the intestines, are provided with genital organs. But to this propagation, circumstances must also be favourable: so for instance we see in children very often worms, that during a long while baffled all possible antidotes, disappear of themselves, when those children are ripening to a more mature age. In the same manner we see them extinguished in adults, whenever any change either of clime or diet takes place with them."

—

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

We promised to "shew up" "*Doctor*" Courtnay this week, but as we have not quite gone through his filthy book on strictures, &c. we must let him off a little longer. The more we hear about this audacious quack, the more we are astonished. *Thirty guineas* is a common sum for him to trick men out of! We have letters before us, which, if read in the House of Commons on a question of the abolition of quack doctors, would carry a law against them without another argument. Courtnay's history, which shall appear in our next number, will open the people's eyes to the robberies that are carried on by these privileged rogues. Eady, the Jordans, Davis, Lynch, Cameron, &c. take the beaten track of quackery, but Courtnay outsteps them by not only adopting the M.D., but by affixing his name to a publication upon diseases. We wish we knew the name of the medical man that wrote the trash; for *he* deserves to be exposed more than the ignorant wretch whose name is to it.

While we are *studying* "Doctor" Courtnay's *work*, the following letters from correspondents will fill up our quack corner of this week, and will be read with interest.

—

"Sir,

"As you have requested of your readers to furnish all the information they are able relative to quacks, I beg leave to communicate one fact, within my own knowledge, of the 'Medical Board,' in Great Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road, under the presidency

of the celebrated *Sir* Harvey *Colombine* Daniels. *

"A young friend of mine who was in the habit of travelling, caught a violent cold, which, at last, became very troublesome. He applied to the learned 'Board' for relief; but with which of the *grave* members he had an interview, I know not.

"Something, however, was sold to him, which he had not used long, before he felt violent internal pains in the lower part of the abdomen. (As I know nothing of anatomy, I cannot state the parts affected—perhaps the kidneys.) A short time afterwards he went, by the advice of his friends, to St. Thomas's Hospital, and subsequently to Guy's; and it was only in the latter that the true nature of his complaint was discovered; but, alas! too late to save his life: in about a fortnight afterwards, he died in the most excruciating agony. On opening the body, the diseased parts were found swelled to three times their natural size! He was a fine young man, about 20, stood six feet. When he applied to the "Board," he had no disease whatever, nor any complaint but a violent cold; yet it appears that the 'quacks treated him as a venereal subject.' How long will the legislature slumber, and allow these wolves to prey on the innocent and unwary! Good God! are the lives of his Majesty's subjects of such trifling value, that any unlettered humbug, or avaricious impostor, may destroy them with such impunity, and that too, after plundering them of their money? Which of the two deserves the greater punishment, the miserable wretch, dying of hunger, who robs on the highway, or the unprincipled and unfeeling quack—better, far better, in circumstances, than an honest practitioner—who not only swindles the incredulous of their money, but occasions their death by the most cruel and lingering tortures?

"I fear I have already trespassed too long on your valuable time; but I must give you an account of another member of the gang of quacks. There is a shop in Liquorpond-street, kept by a man named Peede, in whose window may be seen, on blue, white, and yellow bills, 'Peede's French pills, for the cure of a certain Disease.' 'The most inveterate Itch cured,' &c. Perhaps you may be able to 'shew him up!'

"What do you think of 'Thomas Taylor & Son?' 'A side door and a lamp burning in the passage at night,' or 'Messrs. Goss and Co.'

Yours,

January 31, 1824. X"

London.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

THE pernicious effects of quackery must be obvious to the most superficial observer. To administer the same dose, (or nearly so) of active medicine to the infant and adult, to the debilitated and strong, to a sthenic and asthenic state of the constitution, and impudently assuring the public, that success will result from a trial of their nostrums in the most dangerous diseases, consumption not excepted, is so plain a proof of their ignorance and inhumanity, as to need no comment.

Several irregular practitioners live near Rochdale, in Lancashire, who are known by the name of Whitworth doctors: their abilities are very highly thought of by the illiterate, particularly in the reduction of dislocations and fractures, the cure of ulcers, &c. &c.

I one day was talking about these celebrated doctors to a man, who I found had great faith in their skill. One proof of their superior knowledge (which he thought very convincing) was that a man in their village called Mr. Bradford, with whom he was intimately acquainted, was for a long time 'plagued with live frogs in his belly,' for the cure of which he had consulted three doctors before he went to those at Whitworth, who told him it was impossible, and that it was an imaginary evil, but the man was not satisfied by this explanation, for he 'felt them in his inside;' he immediately went to consult these Whitworth doctors, who heard his symptoms very patiently, and then told him they

* This doughty knight obtained his title by a dirty stratagem; his trick, together with that of his fellow knight, of Nelson Square, was completely exposed in a number of "John Bull."

could cure him: to effect which they administered a strong emetic, and wonderful to relate 'he puked up three gert frogs, and has been hearty ever sin he gat shut on em.' *

Bradford. M. C.

—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I observe in your annals of quackery you have most justly exposed a few of the fraudulent impostors of this metropolis, I hope you will not cease without noticing Simpson, of Henrietta street, Covent Garden, the Arabian vegetable pill man—Gardiner, the worm quack of Shoreditch—Norten, of Hackney Road—Macdonald, of Kent Road, a most notorious humbug—Halle, of Hoxton Town, and the different (ignorant) druggists of family pills, in the vicinity of London. I would willingly send you the history of some of the above consummate quacks, if I thought they would be acceptable. I beg leave to inform you of the death of Twynam of this road, † which took place last December, in Whitecross street prison, he being in confinement there for non-payment of the law expences incurred by his late action; and being myself a practitioner in his immediate vicinity, have seen and heard a great deal of his inhuman mode of traffic, the details of which I shall take an early opportunity of sending you, if it meet your approbation; and am,

Sir, yours respectfully,

A FRIEND OF TRUE SCIENCE.

—

The following quack bill is a rare specimen of the liberties which can be taken with John Bull's credulity. Although to even common minds this document would prove the ignorance, impudence and stupidity of its compiler, yet we have no doubt that it has found gulls to admire and believe in it.

" PLOUGHMAN'S DROPS.

For the leprosy, scurvy, cancerous diseases, female complaints, &c. &c.

Cures fistulas without the knife, and dropsy without tapping!

GLORIOUS NEWS!!!

For the London Faculty, and the Shrewsbury Mercurial Doctor! The 29th of July, 1812, for ever will be recorded, when PLOUGHMAN was tried by the venerable Judge; and his Counsellor, Mr. Dauncey (on addressing the Jury) stated, that they (the Faculty) followed him like so many magpies following an owl, merely BECAUSE HE DID NOT KILL IN THE REGULAR WAY.

" A challenge for fifty sovereigns against any man who has walked the colleges either in London or Paris, to produce a cure equal to the undermentioned one—Case 900.

Copy of a Patient's letter to Dr. Smith.

" SIR,

" We think it our duty to lay this case before the public—for the good of others labouring under the same complaint as ours. We were both under the hands of Dr. ——, of Salop, that noted pharmacopolist, for about 12 months (A. D. 1822,) to no use—and the following year in the month of February he put us in a strong salivation, which loosened all our teeth, and our mouths and our throats were so sore that we were supported with nothing but suction. On the 12th of February, we could shake our teeth out, being so loose, through taking so much mercury.

" So much for the Royal College. Upon that day Dr. Smith was called in to see us, and his opinion was, that we could not live ten days, and that death must follow; but in the course of a few days Ploughman put us out of a strong salivation—being for the better—and we could begin to do our business.

" N. B. About 12 days after, this unskilful doctor came in his gig, with his lady; he got out, and catched my wife by the hand to feel her pulse, and said, she was a deal better; but

* Similar tales of wondrous diseases and marvellous cures are told of almost every country quack. They originate from the quacks themselves, who deal out their miraculous stories in proportion to the ignorance of the people amongst whom they practise their cunning. Such only happens in the country. The quacks of London get up *letters of thanks* for apparently probable cures—a way they think more suitable to *London* ignorance.—ED.

† Kingsland Road, February 4th, 1824

little did he think that she was taking the Ploughman's Drops—he then asked her if her teeth were loose, and her mouth sore? she told him they were not; he then said, we must keep rubbing in, and that we must send for more medicine, as our teeth and mouths must be kept so.

" *.* We followed the Ploughman's Drops, and by taking about 19 small bottles, we got a safe cure, and from motives of delicacy the doctor declines making any further comment, they being in so dreadful a situation.

Sept. 10, 1822.

Richard Chester, his ✕ Mark.
Sarah Chester, her ✕ Mark.
Witness, Elizabeth Robinson, or the Parish at large.

To Dr. Smith, Upton Magna Hall, near Shrewsbury.

" It is lately to be noticed that the Faculty followed the factories, the same as the sea gulls followed the herrings at Parkgate in the year 1760. —Adieu.

Britannia! hear the joyful sound,—
And let the name of Smith be spread;
His Ploughman's Drops have oft been found
To raise to life those nearly dead.

His grand effects are manifested,
By two hundred cases being attested;
Before the Magistrates of Salop;
By those who now at full speed gallop!
Who would not cross their horses stride,
Till Ploughman undertook to guide.

Oh! what a set of worthless Jews
Infest our British Isle;
I will the name of Smith infuse,
To all and cast at them a smile.

N. B. Dr. Smith particularly wishes to caution every one against taking any Advertized Medicines, and to guard against Mercurial Preparations, and to prove them is to drop a little on a shilling, and it will turn it copper color in the short space of two hours. Adieu.

" Sold in Square Bottles at 11*s.* & 22*s.* each; Duty included, by MESSRS. HOLMES & Co., No. 1, Royal Exchange, London." (!!!)

—

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

THE man who lost his limb at the hip joint, is, we are informed, doing well. As much has been said about this operation, as if it were scarcely ever heard of before. It was performed six times during the last two years of the Peninsular war, and the Waterloo campaign, and once at the siege of Flushing. One of the men thus operated upon is a Frenchman, and now living with the surgeon in London who operated upon him. The " Scotsman" newspaper, in his national love of country, sent to the world an account of an operation of this kind having been performed in Scotland, in a minute or two, by Mr. Lyme; by which he proved that he is not so learned in surgery as he is in politics. The time consumed in the operation depends upon the taking up of the arteries—that is, whether the arteries are tied as the operator goes on, or deferred till the bone is renewed, as well as the *number* to be taken up, which often varies.

The woman who miscarried while working at the tread mill at *Cold-bath Fields*, is still very ill. We have been credibly informed, that although she anxiously desired a little tea, (a thing so necessary to a patient in her situation) she was refused it!! To ascertain the truth of this statement, the clerk, Hassel, who supplies such comforts when ordered by the surgeon, and the women in the hospital may be questioned. We are further informed that tea has never been ordered by Mr. Webb, the surgeon, for the sick of that prison, for upwards of twenty years!! The money which the felonious *magistrate*, who was treasurer for the prison, *robbed* the county of, would furnish comforts for the sick prisoners for double and treble that period. The magistrates which he left behind him are not more attentive to the discipline of the wheel, than they are to the *examination* of Mr. Webb's *hospital expenditure*—Tea, Sir!—Prodigious!

George Cruikshank will soon give to the world a series of satirical sketches, the subject of which is the directors, doctors, and patients of the tread-mill. They are in the very best style of that artist.

It is recorded in the lying-in hospital of Dublin, that a woman was delivered of five children at a birth!

Apoplexy.—In giving the history of four cases of apoplexy, in which emetics appeared to have been exhibited with advantage, contrary to the very general opinion of this practice being dangerous, Mr. Swan takes occasion to remark, that apoplexy depends more frequently on the difficult transmission of blood through the lungs, or from its not been properly organized, than is imagined. A stomach overloaded by wholesome food, or containing a small quantity of indigestible food, deranges all the parts to which the *par vagum*, or eighth pair of nerves, are distributed, and therefore the lungs do not perform their functions; in which cases, though bleeding is absolutely required, the quantity of blood may be taken away without affording complete relief; therefore, if a person is seized with apoplexy, and bleeding has not afforded relief, and there is no symptoms of paralysis, and it is probable that the stomach contains undigested food, it is advisable to give an emetic.—*Edinburgh Journal.*

In giving Prussic acid, it should be recollected that it ought to be freshly made, as it is a medicine that will not long retain its qualities.

There is a quack doctor, a convict, in the same ship with Hunt the murderer, for transportation. If Drs. Eady, the Jordans, Cameron, Courtnay, Probert, and all such murderers were along with them, the people's lives might be in less danger.

—

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

—

HONESTAS, *under his other signature, was left out last week: we are thankful for his communications. A weak solution of alum and water will relieve his gums.*

A. Z. would do well not to seek after the composition of the lozenges if they relieve him—they are cheap enough. We may perhaps in the course of our work analyze them; but at present it would be departing from our plan.

G. S. is informed that at this moment, we cannot recommend the dye he wishes. If however he will apply to us in a week or two, he shall have it.—All the remedies he has tried are useless.

A. B's baldness must be treated with an effusion of pump water every morning. The head must not be rubbed too much, but merely dried.

EAU DE COLOGNE, *is without the smell he complains of, and a good application after the water, and in the evening. If he uses spirits instead, let him add a little oil of lemon.*

The prescription was right, but it is expensive. We shall soon give an essay upon hair.

A. P's little boy is a bad case. Let him put a plaster of galbanum on the breast and a burgundy pitch plaster between the shoulders, keeping him warm. A gentle emetic, will also assist. Give nothing that has opium in it, and let him have a milk and spoon diet.

J. T. of Cripplegate, should take two tea spoons full of treacle and sulphur each night, for a fortnight, and then let us hear from him.

ALPHA'S *letter is of great use. We cannot however at present notice the Quack Authors he alludes to. The robbery is shameful, and we hope hereafter to notice it.*

A Reader of the 'Medical Adviser' next week—if he wishes sooner let him leave a direction for a letter.

A constant reader, (Bishopsgate-street,) has obliged us, we ourselves are in the habit of using the powders as they are set down.

An Anti-Quack, is informed that Hahnemann, is a humbug, and we'll shew him up, as soon as we get sufficient information about him. We wish those cases of Epilepsy that have been tricked by him would give us a hint.

G. H. D. shall have a letter at the Post Office.

R. P. Z. is informed that his case must be private; let him tell us where to address him, and he shall have advice.

Communications (post paid) received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's-court, Fleet street, London.

THE

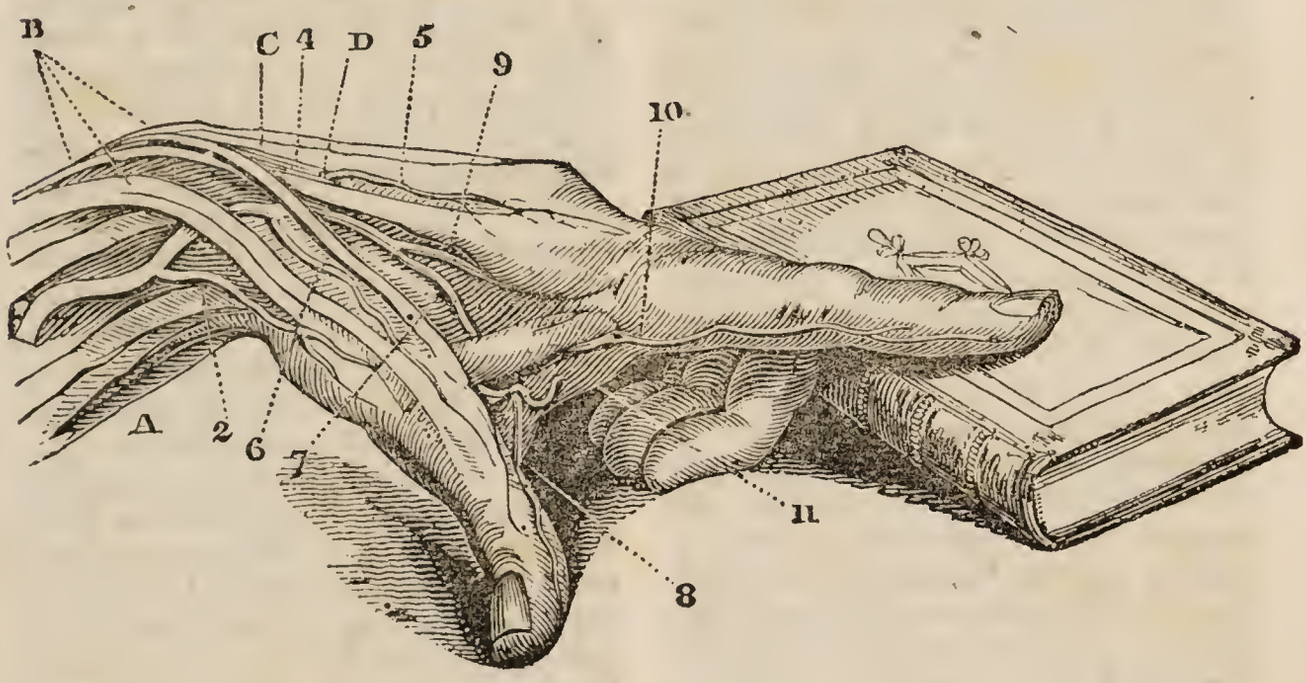
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 12.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21. 1824. [Price 3*d*.



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THE PULSE.

We this week present our readers with an engraving from Mr. Charles Bell's superb work on the arteries. It will be entertaining to our general readers, because the artery which is termed the pulse, is fully and accurately displayed. It is called the radial artery, and one of the three divisions of the great artery of the arm. On entering the hand it subdivides into a great number of small branches, and expands itself upon the fingers. In some cases this artery is wanting, and then the artery upon the other edge of the wrists furnishes the pulsation to the finger of the physician. This artery lies superficially, and it should be pressed gently to the bone in order to judge of the force which its pulsation possesses.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

As indigestion is one of the main springs of all diseases, we shall give it that consideration it so imperiously demands:—first, by laying before our readers, theopinions of the ablest writers on the subject; and secondly, concluding with our own: trusting that the whole will be placed in that clear point of view, which brings home conviction to the meanest capacity. Mr. ABERNETHY'S opinion is as follows: "The changes which the food undergoes in the digestive organs of the more complicated animals are threefold; and distinct organs are allotted to each of the three processes. Digestion takes place in the stomach; chylification in the small intestines; and a third process, hitherto undenominated, is performed in the large intestines. It is probable that in some cases, one set of organs may be more disordered than the others, and of course one of these processes may fail more than the rest. For instance, the stomach may digest the food in a healthy manner, although the intestines do not perform their share of the changes which they ought to effect.

"The food is converted in the stomach into a viscid semi-transparent substance called chyme; and that this change is effected by the agency of the gastric juice, is a point as well ascertained as any in physiology. In a state of health this conversion takes place without any appearance of that natural decomposition which animal and vegetable matter would ordinarily undergo in a warm and moist place. When, however, digestion is imperfect, gaseous fluids are extricated from the alimentary matter. Vegetable food becomes acid, and oils become rancid. Uneasy sensations are also felt, and undigested aliment may be observed in the fæces.

"Disorder of the stomach is however more readily perceived by adverting to the state of the tongue, which often indicates an irritable and unhealthy condition of the stomach, when no manifest symptoms of indigestion occur. If there be no fever to disturb the secretions in general, the change which is visible in the tongue can be imputed to no other cause than local disease, or a participation in a disorder of the stomach or lungs. Local irritation or mental anxiety will cause a white and dry tongue; but does not this effect arise through the medium of an affection of the stomach? For although the secretions of the tongue must partake of the general disturbance which prevails in fever, their especial disorder may be, in that case, also, not improperly attributed to the state of the stomach.

"The state of the tongue is, in general, an infallible criterion of a disordered condition of the stomach; but it does not point out the kind and degree of that disorder. In recent and considerable affections, where the appetite is lost, and the digestive powers are greatly impaired, the appearances of the tongue are by no means so strikingly unhealthy as in more confirmed cases, where neither the appetite nor digestion appear materially deficient. It is probable that a continuance of irritation in the stomach may so affect the tongue, as to render unnatural secretions habitual to the part, and that these exist independently of the original cause, or may be re-produced by trivial degrees of disorder. Nay, sometimes the cuticle of the tongue seems to have lost its transparency, and to become permanently white, in consequence of continued irritation.

"A disordered state of secretion either as to quantity or quality, will be the natural effect of irritation of a secreting organ. This is evidently the case with the tongue; and we may, with great probability, conjecture that the same consequence also takes place in the stomach. Since the juices of the stomach are the immediate agents in digestion, that process must be disturbed in proportion as its secretions are deficient or vitiated.

"If undigested matter pass from the stomach into the intestines, it can scarcely be supposed that their powers are capable of converting it into chyle; and it may become irritating to those organs in consequence of the chemical changes which it may then undergo. When digestion is imperfect, animal and vegetable substances experience considerable chemical changes before they leave the sto-

mach; and similar changes may continue to take place during the time they are detained in the bowels, unless counteracted by the powers of the digestive organs; powers which seem chiefly to belong to the fluids which are secreted into them.

"The extent of the power which the intestines possess of converting what they receive from the stomach into chyle, or of preventing chemical changes, is unknown. It is probable that much undigested matter is absorbed by the lacteals, when the digestive powers fail in their functions. This is apparently the case in diabetes, where the vegetable matter floats in the serum of the blood, rendering it turbid, and afterwards combines so as to form sugar in its passage through the kidneys. The strong odour, which various kinds of food impart to the urine, indicates that different substances are absorbed indiscriminately from the intestines. It is probable that a turbid state of the urine, and variations from the natural odour of healthy urine, may very frequently arise from a similar cause; *viz.* from the imperfect action of the digestive organs, in consequence of which, unassimilated matter is taken up by the lacteals, and afterwards separated from the blood in the kidneys. It may be reasonably conjectured that the same powers, by which the kidneys convert the old materials of our body into that peculiar modification of animal matter, which is dissolved in the water of the urine, and which has been called by the French chemists *urée*, may also enable it, in a healthy and vigorous state, to dispose of much unassimilated substance in the same way. The further consideration of this subject would however lead to a discussion foreign to the purpose of the present paper: it will be sufficient to remark, therefore, that the state of the urine may afford assistance in ascertaining the existence of disorder of the digestive organs, and in indicating its nature. It has been already mentioned, in the brief account of the symptoms, that the urine is frequently turbid. It should, however, also be observed, that the quality of the urine greatly depends on the state of the nervous system. It is frequently, in the disorders of which I am speaking, pale-coloured and copious; which is probably owing to a state of nervous irritation, such as exists in hysteria. It is not improbable that disorders of the digestive organs, by causing the frequent secretion of unnatural urine, may produce irritation, and subsequent disease of the kidneys, and other urinary organs.

"Modern physioligists seem to agree in the opinion that the succus gastricus is the agent by which digestion is effected; but they are not so unanimous as to the immediate cause of chylification. It is not improbable that the succus intestinalis is a principal agent, although its qualities have not yet been enquired into; for, indeed, the investigation would be attended with difficulties almost insuperable.

"Since the bile and pancreatic liquor are poured into the intestines at a small distance from the stomach, it is natural to consider these fluids as useful in effecting the change which the alimentary matter undergoes in the small intestines, namely, its conversion into chyle. The chyme, or aliment digested by the stomach, being viscid, the pancreatic juice has been considered as an useful and necessary diluent, and perhaps this fluid may have other properties with which we are unacquainted."

[*To be continued in our next.*]

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Diarrhœa, or Laxity of the Bowels.

In the greater number of those cases the cause of the disease is either sudden cold or improper food; it however arises sometimes from constitutional disease, and is purely symptomatic. There are few diseases of children which are so mal-treated as this; for every ignorant nurse, nay scarcely a woman that has arrived at the title of mother, that will not take upon herself to advise in the complaint; and their remedies, generally, are Dalby's Carminative, the "soothing" medicines, as they are called, and glutinous and mucilaginous mixtures of arrow-root, milk thickened

with flour, ground rice, tapioca, &c. are poured down the infant's throat. These mixtures may occasionally put a stop to the disease; but it is like firing at a sparrow amidst a flock of geese. Should there be a constriction of the intestines, or disposition to dysentery; or should there be an accumulation of fermenting mass in the intestines, such remedies as the above-mentioned will destroy the child. In all cases then of laxity of the bowels in infants, a preparatory medicine should be given to guard against evil chances; and that medicine should be rhubarb and magnesia; which should be repeated as long as the fæces are unhealthy, at the distance of eight or ten hours. If the diarrhœa continues after this, the following must be given; which in most cases will at once remove the disease.

Of prepared chalk, a scruple.
Of compound powder of cinnamon, ten grains.

Mix and divide into six parts: one of these powders to be taken every four hours. This is for an infant under a year. The dose may be increased according to the age.

The diet may then consist of arrow-root, isinglas, or sago, &c. with a small portion of wine if the child is not suckling. Care must be particularly taken to keep the child wrapped up warmly, and no unequal temperature of the apartment permitted if possible.

Should however the disease still continue after this plan is persisted in for two days, an injection of starch, with eight or ten drops of tincture of opium, must be administered twice a-day. This tried for two days more unsuccessfully, a blister must be applied to the pit of the stomach, after a tepid bath, and half a grain of calomel given at night in a little white sugar and pap; and repeated next night. Should the disease still remain obstinate, the best advice must be had recourse to; but we think that if the above directions are strictly attended to in the beginning, the disease will, in almost every case, disappear.

CAUTIONS

TO BE OBSERVED IN BRINGING UP SCROFULOUS CHILDREN.

Monsieur Poilroux has lately written upon chronic and organic diseases, and amongst many good and bad observations, makes the following; or rather, we give the substance of them. He thinks that children who are predisposed to scrofulous diseases should be allowed the use of wine and coffee at a very early age, (*we* think that if wine and coffee are used in such cases, they should be in very small portions,) and that when the child is very delicate, the period of suckling should be prolonged considerably beyond the usual time. But the mother, who is predisposed to the disease, or has ever suffered from it in her childhood, ought never to suckle her own child. In their studies such children should have amusement rather than fatigue; for intellectual toil requires bodily repose; and toil to them is death. With them too the age of puberty will require more than ordinary attention, that the efforts of nature may be duly seconded. Whatever counteracts scrofula being beneficial; the patient should live on a dry soil, which is exposed freely to the sun, is far from marshes or fogs, and where the temperature is rather warm than cold. The air should be pure. He should also lodge in a house not recently built; and his apartment besides being clean and airy should be exposed to the sun's rays, and elevated considerably from the ground. He should sleep on rather a hard bed. His diet should be half animal and half vegetable. The dishes should be savoury and lightly seasoned; but he should eat moderately, and never ought to taste bread which is not leavened. His clothes should keep out the cold in winter, but should allow the breeze to impart vigour to the skin in summer. He must keep his feet warm, and cover his head lightly: and by guarding against sudden varieties of atmospheric temperature, and using dry friction to the skin, promote a healthy perspiration. His sleep should be moderate, and he ought to rise early; every means also ought to be employed to prevent a too early

marriage. Monsieur Poilroux bitterly laments that government have not hitherto interfered to prevent the inter marriage of diseased persons. In the mean time he recommends that we should, as much as possible, oppose temperament to temperance, in forming such conditions; for instance, the fair skin and delicate complexion of the scrofulous should be allied to a constitution in which there is much strength, where the flesh is firm, the skin brown, the hair black, and in which there is a moderate degree of plumpness, a freshness of complexion, and an active enterprising spirit. In the same way, people who are in situations unfavourable to health should marry those who are not exposed to a similar influence.

In addition to Monsieur Poilroux's opinions we must say, that parents should not pamper and indulge their children as that author would insinuate, but let them have wholesome food without what is termed niceties; let them also have a run in the open air; and above all in such cases let the shower bath be used every morning in summer.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

YOUR exposure of the Quacks of London has conferred a lasting benefit on the community, and I trust your patriotic exertions will at last induce Parliament to enact Laws to suppress such abominable and horrid evils. I speak with feeling, for I am a sufferer. If, as one of your correspondents intimates, the fellow who advertises from the Adelphi, is the same that formerly inundated the newspapers under the name of Currie and Co. of Hatton Garden, he is an old acquaintance of mine, whom I shall never be able to forget:—In the year 1810, I arrived in London, young, healthy, and vigorous. Shortly after my arrival, I suspected myself affected with a certain disease, and like many other ignorants of the world, thinking that he who flourished most in the papers, must be the most eminent in his profession, I applied to Currie and Co. I had indeed, some conceit of my powers of discrimination, and could not be gulled merely by advertisements, but when I read so many paragraphs, speaking, as I then thought, the disinterested sentiments of others, I could not withhold credence. Well, it was in January, 1810, I first applied at Hatton Garden, and the person whom I there saw, confirmed my suspicions, and supplied me with medicine. From January to June, I continued taking this medicine, which I knew to be mercurial pills, without any alteration of the original symptoms. At this period, quite exhausted in body, and having almost spent the last shilling, Currie told me I was quite well. This, it was impossible for me to believe, for, if I had the disease at first, I still had it. As I could no longer afford to pay Currie, I went to a doctor's shop and asked for some mercurial pills. The shop was in Newgate Street, I think the name of Beveridge and Co. One of the principals, who happened to be within, seeing my sickly appearance, humanely enquired what I wanted them for. This led to further examination, when he said with astonishment, "Good God! what have you been taking mercury for? this is nothing venereal, nor ever was." He tried all he could to persuade me, and gave me some medicine to counteract the effect of mercury; but so rooted was my conviction to the contrary, that at another shop I got a young man to give me some, which I took a week longer, when some friends prevailed upon me, and assisted me to consult Sir Astley Cooper. When I told him how long I had been taking mercury, he said with indignation, "D—n the man, he must have been either a fool or a rascal; you never had the venereal." I was now but the shadow of my former self, and was actually more distracted with reflecting on my own folly and the rascality of the unprincipled Quack, than if I really had had the disease itself. After leaving off mercury, and taking some medicine to counteract its effects, I soon began to recover apace; but I can never hope to enjoy my former robust state of health. I intended here to have concluded, but the same

quack has again tricked me. A friend of mine was apprehensive of a stricture, and I begged he would allow me to buy Dr. Courtney's Treatise, as I had seen it strongly recommended in 'The European Magazine.' But judge of my surprise, when I found its value not more than that of waste paper, A more impudent, indecent, and foolish publication never disgraced the press. So far from agreeing with the title page, the book is nothing but a string of invented cases of A. B. and C. D. put together with the grossest indecency and vulgarity, (To Editor, see page 20 and 21,) without a single practical observation. I am at a loss to conceive how a bookseller, of Mr. Ridgway's character, could lend himself in disseminating such infamous trash. The magazine that had the venality to bestow its praises on it, ought to be discountenanced by every true friend to his country, and I have succeeded in expelling it from a book club that I belong to, nor do I think this at all infringing upon the privileges of fair criticism. The man that recommends this book, is guilty of a moral crime against society. Wishing you that encouragement which you are so eminently entitled to I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. P. L.

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To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

There is so much plain good sense in the advice you give, together with a complete knowledge of the medical science, that I cannot help soliciting your assistance upon a few points.

1. I am very subject to catch cold in my head, which causes an excessive defluxion of the nose, so much so that I must in the course of a week have lost several pints of fluid. I have for some years past been subject to these attacks, perhaps twice or thrice in the course of the year, and when I fancy myself enjoying better health than usual, I am most liable to be attacked, The mental weakness they cause is distressing beyond expression, and I really think one or two more would annihilate my powers of thought.—2. If I take any supper, I can seldom or ever sleep, though I may have a good appetite. After lying some time in bed, (if I take supper,) I feel as if something came in *contact* with my *heart*, and I give an involuntary jump; without this, I fancy I should instantly die. This I suffer even when free from colds. When I take a glass of warm brandy or gin and water previous to going to bed, I am not so subject to these sensations; but then I find the next day that it has done me no good.—3. I have almost a continual roughness and redness about my gullet, (the entrance) which obliges me frequently for my relief, to make a kind of a grunting hum. I have been subject to this for years, without apparently getting better or worse. In looking into my mouth, the entrance of the gullet appears red and rough, and the root of my tongue always feels rough, as if acted upon by some corroding matter. I feel quite relieved at *the time I am eating* or *drinking*.—4. The arteries, (or veins) on the calf of the left leg appear extremely large and something similar to ropes of an inch in diameter. If I give a jerk or stamp with my foot, I feel the blood bounding along my thigh, leg, and foot. With these exceptions, I enjoy very tolerable health, and am very active, and still strong for my weight. In habit, spare—age 36—employment, (architecture and mathematics,) sedentary. I once consulted Mr. Abernethy, but as soon as I mentioned my case, he d—d me for coming to insult him, as he was no physician. I got up to apologize and depart, when he said, "there again you insult me, I did not tell you to go." He kept eying me like a fortune-teller, advancing and retreating before me like a butting ram. At last he desired to look at my tongue: that he might see it better, I got half up from my chair, when he said, "d—n you, sit down, I can see such a tongue as that a mile off," and turn-

* We insert this letter, because we think it is a case of Indigestion in one of its worst forms, and also because it contains an anecdote of a most eccentric surgeon.

ing round exclaimed "horrible! horrible, my God, most horrible!!" then whirling round, he advanced upon me, staring like a tiger. When at last, I d—d him for a madman and left him, he burst out into a horse laugh.

X. Y. Z.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Rum and Oil applied for Baldness,

When baldness is quite established, this will have no good effect; but as a preventive when the hair is inclined to fall off, it is a good remedy.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A good Rheumatic Pill.

Of gum guiacum, half a drachm
Compound powder of ipecacuanha, half a drachm
Confection of opium, ten grains—Mix and divide into twenty pills—two a dose at night, going to bed.

A draught to relieve Cholic.

Of aromatic tincture, two drachms
Of compound tincture of lavender half a drachm
Of tincture of opium, thirty drops—Mix and take it in a glass of hot white wine.

SUGAR.

Its Nature, Manufacture, and Medicinal Properties.

The common sugar-cane, is a native both of the East and West Indies. It is cultivated in Persia, and very abundantly in the West Indies. The root is jointed, and sends up several jointed stems, which rise in general to the height of eight or ten feet, a leaf springs from each joint, and the base of it embraces the stem to the next joint above its insertion, before it expands. From this point each leaf is about three or four feet long, and comparatively narrow, like a blade of grass, with the midrib broad and prominent on the under side, and the edges thin and sharply toothed. The flowers are in terminal pannicles, two or three feet in length, and composed of subdivided spikes with long flexnose down or lanugo which encloses the flowers, and hides them from the sight. The seed is oblong pointed, and ripens in the valve of the flowers.

Although the sugar-cane is undoubtedly a native of the American continent, and its islands, yet the culture of it, and the art of making sugar, were carried from Spain to the Canary Islands,* and thence extended about the end of the fifteenth century to the West Indies and the Brazils, the former of which supplies the greater part of the consumption of Europe.† A small proportion only being brought from the East Indies, the quantity of sugar yielded by the plant is varied by climate: thus the Otaheitan cane contains more crystallizble matter than that of any other place.

In the West Indies the plant is propagated by cuttings of the stalk, taken from near its top, and laid horizontally in the ground. The canes are cut for the purpose of making sugar between the sixth and thirteenth months of their growth, when the stems have acquired from seven to ten feet in height, a proportionable size, and the cuticle appears smooth, dry, and brittle; this generally happens in the months of February, March, and April. As soon as they are cut, the canes are stripped of their leaves, and crushed between iron rollers, to express the juice, which is received into large leaden vessels, called receivers, whence it is immediately conveyed into a large copper vessel, named the clarifier, where it is mixed with lime, in the proportion of one pint to 100 gallons of juice, and heated to the temperature of 140°.‡ A thick scum soon forms on the top, from under which the clear liquor is drawn off by a cock into a large copper boiler, when it is boiled till the bulk of the

* At one time sugar was the staple commodity of Madeira, although there is one sugar mill only on the island, but the sugar is uncommonly fine, and has an agreeable odour, not unlike that of violets. Sprengel says, the first notice of the sugar cane, is found in the Itinerary of Abusaidi, in which it is stated, that it grows at Siraf, and Abulfed says, it grows spontaneously at Almansura in India. Ebu Alvan first described the mode of collecting and preparing the juice.

† The average importation into England and Scotland, between 1787 and 1790, amounted annually to 1,952,262 cwt. Mosely's Hist. of Sugar, p. 154.

‡ The lime extricates carbonic acid from the juice, and forms with the herbaceous or feculent matter an insoluble compound, which rises to the surface, and forms the scum.

liquor is very considerably diminished; the boiling is successively repeated in four other coppers, progressively smaller, and from the last, which is called the teache, it is conveyed into shallow wooden coolers, where it grains, and the concreted mass separates from the uncrystalizable matter or molasses. This mass is then put into empty hogsheads, having holes in the bottom, through each of which a stalk of a plantain leaf is thrust, and when the molasses has drained off the process is finished: in this state the sugar is brought home, under the name of raw or Muscovado sugar. In Europe, however, sugar undergoes another process for its purification: it is coarsely ground, dissolved in lime-water, and clarified with bullocks' blood, then boiled down to a proper consistency, the impurities being skimmed off as they rise, and poured into conical earthen vessels, where it is to grain; the point of the cone is perforated, and the base covered with moist clay, the moisture of which percolates the sugar, and runs off through the perforated apex, which is placed undermost, carrying with it any uncrystalized, impure syrup: in this state it is called loaf-sugar, and requires a second purification before it is considered as completely refined sugar.

Raw or Muscovado sugar is inodorous and sweet to the taste, it is in concreted masses, consisting of small dry sparkling irregular crystals of a yellowish colour; refined sugar is also inodorous and sweet to the taste, its colour is pure white, and the mass or loaf in which it is concreted should be hard, extremely brittle, pulverulent in the air. One hundred parts of sugar in its ordinary state contains, according to Berzelius, 5,3 of water, and it requires its own weight only of water at 48° for its solution. When united at a higher temperature with a smaller quantity of water, it remains dissolved, forming syrup; four parts of boiling alcohol dissolve one part of sugar, but by rest a moiety of the sugar again separates in crystals. Oils also readily combine with it, and the mixture is miscible with water. Lime and the fixed alkalies unite with sugar and form compounds, without any sweetness of taste. The concentrated strong acids dissolve and decompose sugar, but the weaker simply dissolve it, and the alkaline and earthy hydro-sulphurets, sulphurets, and phosphurets, decompose it, and resolve it into a substance resembling gum.* When sugar is boiled, says Vogel, with peroxide of mercury, and acetate of copper, these salts are converted into protoxides, oxymuriate of mercury is converted into calomel and sulphate of copper, and nitrate of mercury is reduced to a metallic state. But sugar does not decompose the salts of iron, zinc, tin, and manganese its ultimate constituents, according to the experiments of Lavoisier, are sixty-four oxygen, twenty-eight carbon, and eight hydrogen, in an hundred parts. But according to Thenard, and Gay Lussac, the proportions are, oxygen 50—63, carbon 42—47, hydrogen 6—90, with which the last analysis of Berzelius nearly coincides.

Molasses has a peculiar odour, and a sweet empyreumatic taste; it is of a brown or black colour, thick and viscid, and is constituted chiefly of the uncrystalizable part of the juice of sugar-cane, which Proust has denominated liquid sugar; it is more soluble in alcohol than sugar.†

Raw sugar and molasses are laxative, and refined sugar, externally applied, is escharotic. All the kinds are extremely nutrient, and more generally used as articles of diet, than for medical purposes, except it be to cover the taste of nauseous drugs. Sugar however is said to be a preventive of worms, and to prove useful in scurvy, but it is hurtful to those of bilious, hypochondriacal, and dyspeptic habits. But perhaps the most important use of sugar is as an antidote to the poison of verdigris. It requires to be given in large quantites, both in the solid form, and in solution in water. It appears to act chemically on the poison, and also by increasing the peristaltic motion of the bowels.

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* Rollo on Diabetes, 452. Thomson's Chemistry, 4th Edit. Vol iv. p 660.

† A sugar in every respect resembling common sugar, is obtained from the maple.

FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. IV.

Anatomy.—(continued.)

We expected to find the museum of *L'Ecole de Medicine* richer in anatomical preparations than any in London, but were greatly disappointed. The collection of skeletons, however, are admirably arranged; the dry muscular preparations, and those of the great vessels, are excellent; there are also two trunks of the lymphatic system perfectly injected; and some dissections of the nerves of the neck, the thorax, and the abdomen, preserved in spirits of wine; but with the exception of preparations of the fœtus, and of monsters, the museum affords scarcely thirty pathological pieces. There is not any preparation of the eye, the nose, the fauces, or the viscera, nor any mercurial injection of the absorbents, nor of the testiculæ.

It cannot be expected that the lessons upon anatomy in this school can be so complete as those in London, when such subjects of demonstration are wanting. We must however render every justice to the Parisian professors for the manner in which they furnish recent preparations, and we must allow that in general they dissect much better than in London; but in all fine injections of the very minute branches of anatomical preparations London excels. Without such species of preparation, how can we demonstrate the successive progress of the formation of bone, the vascularity commencing in diseased cartilage, and the more considerable blood-vessels which develope themselves when the osseous matter begins to be deposited? They describe the delicate structure of the eye, but how can it be demonstrated without an injected preparation? To prove the necessity shall we quote the scepticism of certain anatomists of Paris, upon the existence of the central artery in the eye of the fœtus? Yet we know that it is not so difficult to inject this artery, and to render evident its fine ramifications on the posterior capsule of the crystalline lens, after it has traversed the vitreous humour. In a fœtus of five or six months, we meet those vessels full of blood, and thus quite apparent in their courses without artificial injection. Now, notwithstanding the doubts which are expressed by Parisian anatomists upon the existence of this artery, none have yet endeavoured to come at the truth by making a preparation of the eye of the fœtus, nor does all Paris furnish one! Is it not equally impossible to inject for every new course of lectures the lymphatic system? Yet the French anatomists inject their subjects every year, and seem to think that the difficulty is much diminished by the instrument invented by M. Dumeril, which they prefer to those of Vicq. d'Azir and Cruikshank. It is a glass tube, more proper to inject those lymphatic vessels, which may be shewn in the lesson of the day, than to make durable preparations.

The art of preserving in spirits of wine is so little cultivated at Paris, that one would think it was almost unknown; and there are none of the fine injections superior to those anatomists who preceded Ruisk. In vain do we seek in the capital of France a museum particularly worthy of being visited: they are all national property; and to this may be attributed the imperfection of the French on anatomy in that part. A learned anatomist will labour with more zeal and interest for his private cabinet than for a public institution. M. Dumeril terminates his essay upon *the means of perfecting the anatomical art* by a list of those useful and necessary preparations which a cabinet of anatomy ought to contain; but in vain do we search for all which he indicated in the museum of *L'Ecole de Medicine*. Can it be believed that the Museum of *Comparative Anatomy*, of the *Jardin des Plantes*, is subject to the same objection? When a *Cuvier*, the *Pliny* of our age, directs this establishment, should we not expect to find every thing perfect? We regret that science has here reason to be jealous of the time which that great naturalist has given to politics. How many discoveries of *Cuvier*, in spite of the descriptions which he has given of them, are lost for the want of fine injections! Is it worthy of a museum, created by the successor of Buffon,

to offer to the curious those anatomical preparations esteemed in all other countries, half concealed in a muddy sort of spirit and encrusted bottles? Look to England—with what ability our moist preparations are preserved and displayed—transparent and minutely demonstrated. This is an art in which we far surpass the French; attended with honour to the professors, and benefit to the student. The Museum of the *Jardin des Plantes* is rich in nothing but in skeletons.

But, notwithstanding the superiority of our anatomical cabinets to those of France, the students of Paris have the advantage over those of London, in having the liberty gratuitously to attend all those institutions, which in part were created for their instruction. It is but too true, that in England the door of science is shut to all who have not the golden key, while in Paris the museums are open three times a week to all, whether foreign or national.

There is one art in which the French certainly surpass us: it is the art of modelling in wax. We have nothing in London or Dublin that can compare with the models in wax executed by M. Laumonier—those in Trinity College, Dublin, may be equal; but they are of French manufacture.

In Laumonier's figures the student may trace, in the most minute manner, the structure of the eye, the ear, &c. &c. and may study with as much accuracy and advantage as from the dead subject.

We should not forget to observe that there is a place for the assemblage of all species of instruments and bandages, ancient as well as modern; and also one for a collection of every substance necessary for the course of Materia Medica. But that which is of the most decided utility to students, is a library within the walls of the school. It is not open every day but to certain privileged students; the others are only admitted three times a-week, from ten till two each day.

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ELECTRICITY.

The general properties of air and water being defined in former numbers, those of earth and fire will properly follow. Air and water are volatile, and easily separated by fire from the bodies they help to compose. Pure earth resists the utmost force of fire, so that what remains of a body that has been exposed to the fiercest fire, may be considered as nearly pure earth. Fire is the most powerful agent in the decomposition of bodies, for its particles being infinitely small, and agitated by a rapid motion, it easily penetrates the hardest bodies. Fire is the only essential fluid, and the principle of fluidity in other bodies, by separating their parts; hence air itself might become solid, if it could be entirely deprived of the fire it contains, as bodies of the most difficult fusion become fluid when penetrated with a sufficient quantity of the particles of fire. The greatest degree of heat produceable by man, is that excited by the rays of the sun collected in the focus of a large lens or burning-glass. All bodies contain fire, for any body violently agitated, grows hot; yet heat is nothing but an idea in us, produced by the greater or less motion of fire, and in which the judgment of our senses is wholly uncertain. When a body gives fire a motion in right lines, it is lucid, and excites by its flow on the retina of our eyes the idea of light; but heat will move in oblique lines; yet there is not always light when there is fire, and yet there cannot be light without fire, though in the ignus fatuus, rotten wood, dry fish, &c. we cannot perceive it, because it is less hot than our bodies. Quicksilver, when it plays into an exhausted receiver in the dark, produces a strong light. Phosphorus also contains much fire, but the water in which it is put keeps it in. Air also partly keeps in the fire in hot water; for if one of two vessels equally filled with hot water be exhausted on an air-pump, the fire will escape and make it but lukewarm, when the other is still hot. Flame is the vapour which is emitted by the burning body, heated red hot.

Elementary or electric fire has many of the above qualities, but is of greater subtilty, and has some properties altogether different. It is inherent, more or less, in all substances; but some conduct or transmit it, whilst others

stop its progress from one body to another. Glass, hair, silk, gums, and other excrements of nature, are non-conductors, and called electrics; but metals, water, wood, and most animal and vegetable substances are conductors, and are called non-electrics.

1st. If a long tube of glass be rubbed all one way with a warm hand or cloth, an atmosphere of this fire will be formed all round it; and if a finger approaches the tube, the fire will come visibly off the tube on to the finger with a snap; the reason is, the friction collects the fire, and the spark is the effort it makes to disperse itself again, and thereby restore its equilibrium.

2nd. If the same tube electrified approaches a feather hung by a silk thread, it will attract the feather once; but if held to it again, will repel it. The silk will not conduct the electric fire; the equilibrium is therefore affected between the tube and the feather, on the first approach: on the second the atmosphere of the tube pressing on that of the feather drives the feather from it; but if the feather be suspended by a flaxen thread, the electrified tube will always attract it; because the fire can make its escape up the thread, and thereby leave a continued inequality between them. A large globe or cylinder of glass, with a basil skin cushion covered with an amalgama of quicksilver and tin foil, to produce the friction; a prime conductor to take off the electric atmosphere from the glass, and deposit it in a glass receiver, covered with tin foil, to within two inches of the top, and a wheel to put the cylinder in motion, is called the electric machine, or fire pump. When this machine is put in motion, it destroys the equilibrium of the electric fire about it, and from thence the whole of its phenomena proceed, as may be proved by experiment: 1st. If a person touch the electrified conductor, the fire will escape through the person into the ground, with a prodigious flash and report. 2nd. If any number of persons take hands, and the first person holds a chain, which communicates with the outside of the receiver, and the last person touching the communication with the inside, when the phial is charged, the fire will restore itself through all the company at the same instant, giving each a severe shock at the wrists and elbows, in its passage back again to the outside of the phial. 3d. If a person stands upon a stool which has glass feet, and holds a chain fastened to the conductor, on turning the machine, and touching him, sparks may be brought out of every part of his person and clothes, and if he touch warm spirits, or gunpowder, with his finger, they will take fire; which shews that the electric fire is chiefly pumped from the earth, and cannot return to it again through glass 4th. If a ball be hung on the conductor, and a plate of bran, or leaf-gold be placed under it, on electrifying the ball, the bran will be alternately attracted to, and repelled from it in a beautiful shower. Hence the particles of the bran are carriers, as it were, of the electric fire from the ball to the plate; and if two bells be hung on the conductor, one by a flaxen thread, and the other by a silk thread, (having from it a chain to the table) if a small clapper be hung between them on a silk thread, it will carry the fire from one to the other, and thereby ring both. 5th. Electrified feathers spread out their threads radically; if a round body be held to them, they cling to it and deposit their fire, but if a point be held near them, they shrink at once, because the pores of the point are better disposed to receive the fire instantaneously than the round body. Hence the reason why the wires on the American, and other houses have points to receive with more ease the electric lightning from the clouds, and thereby prevent its mischief. 6th. If wires fixed upon the spokes of a wheel be suspended on their centre, with their points bent all the same way, and in the plane of the circle; on being electrified, the effluvia flowing from the points, will strike so forcibly upon the air as to force the wheel round with great rapidity. Hence a simple and pleasing electric orrery is put in motion; and various mills and other devices. 7th. Water and salt, like the cylinder and cushion, will collect the electric fire, when put in motion; for one is an electric, and the other a non-electric body. Hence the sea itself becomes a huge electric

machine when violently agitated by winds collecting on its troubled surface the fire from beneath, and looking as it were all in flames. Clouds rising from the sea so circumstanced, must needs contain more of the electric fire than clouds raised from the land or calm sea. If therefore two clouds meet fraught with unequal portions of this fire, the cloud more electrified will deposit its abundance in the cloud less electrified, and with a flash of lightning restore the equilibrium. This fire driving away the air, the adjoining air will rush in, and with a report called thunder, restore the equilibrium of the air. Some think putrid fish, others animalculæ or an east wind, causes the luminous appearance of the sea. If a cloud, attracted by a neighbouring mountain, contains more electric fire than the mountain, the lightning will dart from the former to the latter, and *vice-versâ*. Hence if an electric cloud comes too near a tower, tree, house, &c. and is not wet, the fire will descend on it in an effort to restore the equipoise; and if greatly obstructed in its passage to the earth, will perhaps break it to pieces. To stand under a tree or shed, is therefore dangerous in a thunder-storm, and shews also the extreme utility of having a wire from the ground to the top of any tall building, down which the equilibrium will be restored without danger; and if a finger at that time be applied to the wire, it will give the electric flash much stronger than by any machine. A kite sent up into a thunder-cloud by a wet packthread, having a key tied to its end, and held by a silk ribband, will extract the fire from the cloud: it will come down the wet string, and stream off the key to the ground in a beautiful but alarming torrent of fire.

'Tis thus by weight and measure that the Almighty has appointed self-physic for the disorders of his works.

If a capillary syphon be made to decant water, it will fall from it in small drops; but if the water be electrified, it flows from the syphon in a swift stream. Hence it is found that a person positively electrified—that is having more electric fire thrown into him than his natural quantity—by standing on a cake of wax, and touching an electrified conductor, has his pulse accelerated above one third. This acceleration has been found of great service in obstructions, rheumatisms, palsies, &c. and the electrical shock has been still more successful in removing paralytic complaints, deafness, tooth-ache, &c. but its medical qualities have not yet been well ascertained.

To prove that electric matter goes from the inside to the outside of a charged phial in the electric flash, circuit, or shock; 1st. A phial will not charge without a conducting substance between its outside and the rubber. 2d. Two knobs a few inches asunder in a glass vacuum conductor, one delivers and the other receives the fire, in shewing its passage from the inside to the outside of the phial. 3rd. Gilt paper or leather, as part of the circuit, makes its passage visible.

Many experiments tend to prove the electrical fluid to be elementary phlogistion. We dare not say much of this.

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Stramonium in the cure of Chronic Rheumatism.

M. ZOLLICOFFER'S opinion that Stramonium was of decided benefit in the cure of chronic rheumatism, has led us to make a trial of the medicine, and we find that it answers its recommendations. The following is the mode of preparing the medicine—

Of the leaves of Stramonium dried, half a drachm, pour upon it two wine glasses full of spirit of wine, and let it stand five days.

or,

Of the seeds, half a drachm, to the same portion of spirit of wine, and let it stand seven days.

About eight drops given morning and evening, is a sufficient dose

When it produces giddiness, it should be discontinued.

The leaves of stramonium mixed with lard, and allowed to remain upon a slow fire for an hour, is a good ointment or liniament to rub upon the joints in rheumatism.

Baron Stoerk was the first who recommended it internally in epilepsy and mania; but its success in those diseases was not remarkable. Dr.

Barton, of America, is a great advocate for stramonium. Smoking this herb like tobacco, has been by some recommended for chronic asthma.

Should any of our rheumatic readers find relief from this medicine, as above prescribed, we request they will inform us of it.

—

HOT PUNCH AT NIGHT TO CURE A COLD.

THIS remedy, from its agreeable qualities towards the palate, is a frequent one. A more dangerous cannot be. What is called a cold, is always depending upon partial inflammation, and as ardent spirits increase the action of the arteries, the inflammation may extend; and, if in the lungs, may prove fatal. In slight cases, however, a perspiration induced by the punch may relieve, but it is a dangerous experiment; such a remedy will be always esteemed by a certain class of people, and those will always have an excuse for it. If they get better the next morning, after this dose of delight, they extol to the skies its medicinal qualities—and if, on the other hand, they are worse in the morning, they tell you that if it were not for the hot punch which they took the night before, they are sure they would be still worse—if not gone altogether!—"How fortunate!"—It is more dangerous than opium.—A hot drink of *whey* indeed is a *true* remedy.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

"DOCTOR" COURTNAY, *alias* CURRIE and Co., *formerly of Hatton Garden and Bologne sur Mer, now of Adam Street, Adelphi, and the Rules of the Fleet!*

THIS is one of the most dangerous men in the country; the midnight wolf loose amidst the unsuspecting flock, is not capable of the ravages that follow from this audacious pretender's presumption and roguery. He is the most dangerous of all the other quacks, because from his being such an adept in swindling, he has put on, in all its exterior dignity, the stolen robe of the regular and educated practitioner. He has not only manufactured a title page to his book after the model of medical writers with his "by B. C. Courtnay, M. D." to the bottom of it, but has managed to get into a house, which has all the appearance of a learned physician's, even to the style of his door plate; and in the midst of those Hotels where the rich country gentlemen set up. He has, in fact, under his new name, set himself in wait for the rich, although, as appears by the numerous complaints we have received of his roguery, that he does not refuse a "*Currie and Co.*" customer, and plunders the poor as well as the opulent of health and property.

We have looked over this fellow's filthy catch-penny book, on "*Strictures of the Urethra, &c.*" It consists of 99 pages, 16 of which treat of the disease—that is, contains a few of the heterogeneous remarks of various medical writers, ignorantly and obscurely thrown together in disguised language. The remaining 83 pages are filled up with cases evidently constructed to meet a similarity in those who may be silly enough to read his book.—Case the first, is "The *Honorable* A. G."—the second, a *Colonel in the Army;*—the third, *Capt. R. of the Royal Navy;*—the fourth, *Capt. P. of the Royal Marines;*—the fifth, *O. B. Esq. from Ireland;* (he ought to have put a *Mac* as well as an *O,*)—the sixth, a *Proprietor of Coaches;*—the seventh, *T. R. a Merchant, &c. &c.* Thus we see the nobility, gentry, army, navy, marines, merchants, and traders, all artfully taking their places in Dr. Courtnay's list according to their respective ranks! There are a few ambiguous remarks at the end of the book upon nervous debility, so written as to confuse the reader, who is not so far acquainted with medical science as to see through the cheat, and he concludes by stating, that the "*tonic drops*" is a mild, safe, and efficacious remedy, but not a word of *what the "tonic drops"* are, *or where they are to be procured!* What is the reason of this? Of course to *draw forth a letter of application,* or a visit from the devoted dupe.

Is not what we have now stated concerning this quack, sufficient in

itself to convince every man of the evils—the dreadful evils arising from the toleration of quacking. Can any member of parliament read this exposé of Courtnay, and say that he would not vote in favour of a bill to put an end to the evil? We declare from the acquaintanee which we have with medicine—(and who will not join us in our opinion?) that the passing of a law to put down quacks, *and to regulate the fees* of regular practi tioners, so as to bring their services within the power of the poor, would be one of the most judicious and useful, and—next to the abolition of the slave trade—the most humane measure which the legislature ever adopted.

The charlatan history of Courtnay is this; he from being an illiterate pauper, managed to *come at* as much money as to set up advertising quack under the name of Currie & Co. of Hatton Garden; when, notwithstanding his infamous success in his "profession," he outran the constable, and fled to Bologne in 1821; and it was in that place we had the *honor* of first seeing him. We, on our return from Paris, entered the public room in the Hotel Royale, where several Englishmen were listening to one whom they regarded with seeming attention. From the interlarding of the speaker's discourse with such words as *purgatives, blisters, strictures, &c.* we suspected the nature of his calling and intentions. "This man, Sir," said he (easting his learned glances at us) "must recover if the complaint is not *twarted*; the excoriation which he had on the *phœnix* is quite gone, (by the bye we never could guess what he meant by *vhœnix*) the swellings are gone back, and the only thing now the matter with him is, that he is sinking in strength from the mercury; and even were he to die, still I swear that I have cured the disease itself." "But Doctor," said a listener, "he really is dying."—"Why, Sir," gravely returned the Doctor, "there are yet great hopes if the *diary* does not carry him off; the *small guts*, Sir, you see, have lost their *disgestive organs*. and I think he has a touch of *heparitis*—but die or not die, I've cured his *phœnix*, for I never missed in my life."—Now a tall stout gentleman entered the room, and with a most petrifying grin, seized the doctor, shook him with the utmost violence, and charged him with the murder of his friend—all was confusion for some minutes, which at length was dissipated by this tall gentleman thrusting the doctor into the yard, and from thence into the street, from whence he did not return We were then informed that the expelled quack was Dr. Currie of Hatton Garden—that a few days since he obtruded himself into the sick chamber where the tall gentleman's friend lay indisposed—that he succeeded in getting the attendance of him, and that he killed him with corrosive sublimate, as was declared by two physicians!

Currie soon quitted Bologne, went to Paris, where becoming acquainted with a certain outcast Lord, he in compliment to him, took the name of Courtnay, and having proposed the plan which he now pursues, to a man who possessed a little money, they came over to London, where they took a house, paid for the writing and printing of a pamphlet on strictures, and put down £30 for advertisements. Thus the wheel was set agoing once more, and it has continued to roll over the health of unfortunate sufferers ever since.

We were informed by letter that Courtnay was in the Swindlers' list, but we would not mention it, without further proof. We have at length got proof, which is that of our own eyes. Courtnay of Adam-street, Adelphi, *alias* Currie and Co., *is positively in the Swindlers' list!* Our correspondent's letter, page 127, will shew that he is not undeservedly there.

Goss and Co.—next.

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THE MEDICAL ADVISER'S CRITIC. A LETTER has appeared in the *Sunday Monitor* of the 15th, from the phrenological critic, upon whose ignoranee of anatomy and fallacy of reasoning we had occasion to remark in our ninth number. When we read his former letter, which gave occasion to our observations, we pronounced him ignorant and presumptuous—for

what more just epithet could be attached to a writer who could come forward with all his poisoned weapons to attack phrenology, yet stated the brain—the *very subject upon which he treated*—to be a *membrane!* This ignorance the doughty critic calls "a *casual error!*" It certainly is a casual error that led him to attempt a subject of which he knew so little. His last letter was a still greater error, for it serves only to shew how capable he is of scurrility and vituperation, as well as of blundering and presumption. Writhing as he evidently is, under the mortification which our comments produced upon him, he could find no argument "to mend his broken name," and therefore tries to recriminate—searches the whole of our work, and at last finds amidst the hurried lines "*to correspondents*" that the singular "*is*" is misplaced for the plural "*are!*" This might with much more justice be called a *casual error* than to call the *brain a membrane;* for the latter must have arisen from ignorance of the subject, while every page of our work affords proof that the former was a mistake.

This enraged writer calls us "men of trash," and that our's, as well as any other cheap publications, should be looked upon as "*twopenny trash.*" How must he have blushed for his intemperance and scurrility, when he read the note of the Editor at the bottom of his letter, viz. "The publication alluded to by our correspondent (the Medical Adviser) is a SUPERIOR PERIODICAL WORK; and contains some very useful, entertaining, and able articles on physic and surgery. It is *an exception to the general character of cheap publications,* and abounds *with valuable information!*" Thus retorts the Editor of the Monitor in the teeth of his correspondent! The enlightened Editor of the *Examiner* calls the *Medical Adviser* "a spirited and able publication," and nearly all the journals throughout England have repeatedly quoted from it, nay even in the same paper which contains this phrensied critic's abusive letter, there is a quotation from it headed "Love" of half a column's length—yet, forsooth, because we expose ignorance and nonsense, we are "men of trash." We have read many of the cheap publications, and think that the humblest of them all would be ashamed to own the trashy letters of their reviler.

Before we quit our opponent we must make an observation upon the attempt he makes to charge us with absurdity. He says, "Brother Doughty first makes the bumps on the head the cause, and then assures us the brain is the cause of the bumps."—*We do no such thing*, and refer this writer to our article again for the proof, with this instruction that the word "organs" which he quotes means *brain*, not *bumps of the bone*:—phrenologists only look upon risings of the cranium as indications of risings on the brain. They reason from cause to effect—the cause is the early action of the organs or convolutions of the brain, and the effect is the proportional fulness of these organs. This sagacious dabbler in danger thought that by *organs* was meant convexities or bumps of the bone! Our simile of the bear in the boat thus receives additional strength; the more that unweildy animal floundered at the oars when the crowd laughed at him, the more he set forth his ignorance and presumption.

We part with the critic, regretting that his scurrility should thus oblige us to raise our pen in defence of ourselves. He has become our enemy without a reason; and an enemy to our publication is a new thing to us—we have none but him and the quacks, whom we alike defy.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

ANIMALCULÆ are not confined to the intestines alone of animals: they are also found in the brain, lungs, liver, and cellular substance. These are of five kinds—the *cystericus*, having a vesicular tail—the *polycephalus*, having many heads—the *ditrachyerus* having bifurcated horns—the *echinoccus*, having a round form and much asperity—and the *ascephlocystis*, having no head. The polycephalus is found in the substance of the brains of cows, sheep, &c. The cystericus is found in the liver of horned cattle: it is also found in the flesh of swine, and in the ventricles of the

brain of some persons who have died of apoplexy. The ascephlocystis is most common to man, and is found sometimes in the lungs, the liver, the kidneys, and the cellular substance. There is no symptom, unfortunately, by which their existence in the human body can be determined, hence a course of mercury has succeeded in cases when every other remedy has failed.

Hunt's Roasted Grain.—Mr. Hunt has sent forth a letter to the public to contradict the just opinion given by the Editor of the *Mechanic's Magazine* upon his grain; and although that letter contains much plausibility, it has given no positive refutation. We have received a letter from Mr. Facey, a seller of roasted grain in Whitechapel, requesting us to examine his manufactory; in consequence of which we visited it, and inspected the whole of the process necessary to prepare the article. The grain was fresh and wholesome, properly steeped in a large tub of water, and then roasted in a large cylinder, from whence it is taken to the coffee mill, and ground as it is called for. This we have compared with Mr. Hunt's, and are of opinion, that it is decidedly *superior* in flavour, when infused as we have directed in a preceding number of our publication. Yet *this* grain is sold for *sixpence per pound!* Let Mr. Hunt be satisfied with gulling those who are foolish enough to give him a shilling for a pound of this grain; but let him not stand up to grumble against those who feel it their duty to lay open his trickery to that class of people the most likely to be duped by his avarice.

Milk boiled with fine sugar will keep good for a considerable time.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A constant reader W. R. must leave off the injurious pills of Courtmay's prescribing. If he tells us where to address him, he shall have our opinion.

W. S. M's first letter never came to hand: we much regret it. Let him send us his full case, and it shall be attended to.

J. P. H.'s letter on Leak's pills is of use. We thank him.

J. C. of Liverpool, shall have a letter directed to his initials at the Post Office.

J. B——y of Birmingham, shall also have a letter to his initials, at the Post Office.

A reader of the Medical Adviser, is informed that the ointment he alludes to is a good application. Let him live lightly, take no malt liquor and use Seidlitz powder, as we prescribed in our last number.

W. E. C.—J. O. and W. B. of Birmingham, shall each have a letter.

It would be acting unjustly to H. M. S. to give him any written advice. His complaint must be treated by a Surgeon, for it will be necessary to observe the progress and symptoms more particularly, than can be done by written communication.

W. W-L-T, *may try our formula of bilious head-ache pill, once or twice.*

"A Friend to true Science," *is informed that we have received a letter from Mr. Simpson, of Henrietta-street, in reply to him. Next week.*

A. W. S. called for the letter at our Publishers, a little before it was sent, we wish he would call at 2 o'clock, on Monday next.

Our Correspondents are requested when they ask advice, to state an address where an answer may be sent, as it may not be convenient to insert it in our publication.

* * * *'s is received. We are glad he is so well employed. We shortly will address Mr. Peel on the subject.*

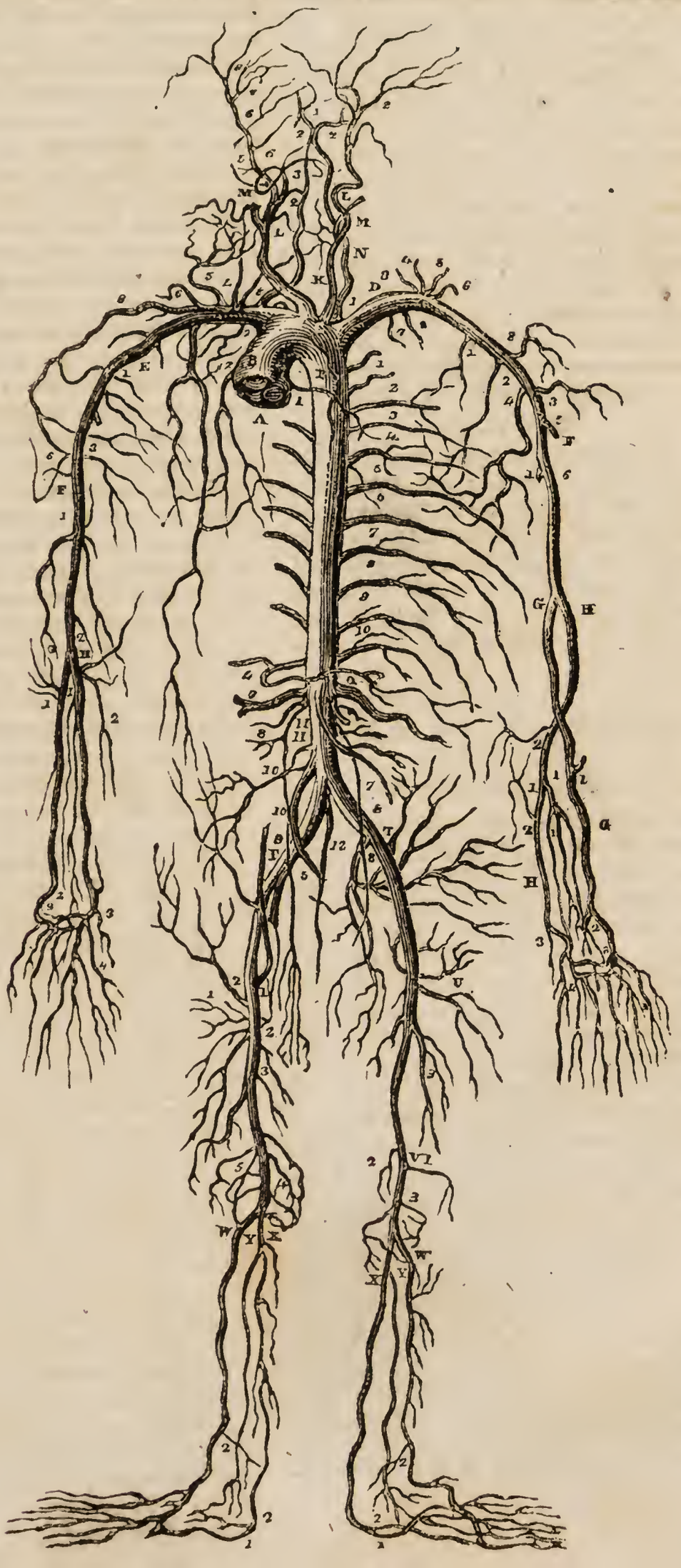
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Communications received (post paid) at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's-court, Fleet-street

THE
MEDICAL ADVISER,
AND
GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.
EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 13.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



THE ARTERIES.

The plate of this number represents the arteries of the human body, divested of every other substance.

The great trunk or aorta is cut off from the heart, just below the three valves which open inwards at every pulsation, and shut again while the heart is relaxing, thus preventing the ejected blood from returning to the heart. This plate will assist in the consideration of the circulation of the blood, sketched in our sixth number.

The figures and letters have been put in by mistake: they merely referred to anatomical terms of no interest.

Reference to our last Plate.

THE PULSE.

The letters mark the tendons, vulgarly called *sinews;* and the numbers the branches of the arteries coming off from the artery of the wrist—the pulse. This artery should have been marked 1, but the artist has left the figure out It is the trunk from which the branch marked 2 immediately comes.

CANTHARIDES; OR BLISTERING FLIES.

Medical Qualities, &c.

Blistering flies internally exhibited are powerfully stimulant and diuretic; and externally applied, rubefacient and epispastic. Notwithstanding their acrimony, they appear to have been given as an internal remedy so early as the time of Hippocrates, who prescribed them chiefly in cases of dropsy and amenorrhœa. They have a considerable effect on the urinary organs, even when externally applied, and unless their internal exhibition be conducted with great caution, they act with so much violence on the kidneys, bladder, and small intestines, as to produce bloody urine, purulent stools, insupportable pains in the abdomen, vomiting, and other symptoms of intestinal inflammation, convulsions, delirium, syncope, and death. They have, however, been successfully employed in dropsy, obstinate gleet, leucorrhœa, and incontinence of urine, arising from paralysis of the sphincter vesicæ. The free use of diluents, as milk, almond-emulsion, and mucilaginous solutions, is absolutely necessary during their employment, to moderate their action. The tincture is the most proper for internal use; if given in substance, the dose should not exceed one grain of the powdered flies formed into a pill with opium, or extract of henbane, but they require to be continued for some time, in order to prove beneficial.

Blistering flies, when applied to the skin, act as a local stimulant, first reddening and inflaming the part, and then producing from the exhalants a copious discharge of serum under the cuticle, so as to raise a blister. These effects they produce more certainly and completely, than any vegetable acrid, and therefore they are more generally employed as a vesicatory, than any other substance.

It is uncertain whether blisters were used by the ancients, who we know employed some epispastics; but in the hands of modern practitioners they are daily and successfully employed. Although their first operation is local, yet, under certain circumstances, the stimulus is sufficient to rouse the whole nervous energy, and excite the general system, so as to render their application useful in diseases of diminished excitement; and on this account, in deep seated local affections, when the inflammatory diathesis is considerable, the force of the circulation must be diminished by bleeding, purging, or other evacuants, before blisters can be advantageously applied. The diseases of debility, in which they are useful, are low nervous fevers, when accompanied with delirium, pale urine, frequent sighing, great anxiety, deafness, a fixed stare, and glistening eyes. In palsy and gutta serena, they are applied to the forehead, over the supra-orbital nerve. They are found efficacious also in spasmodic and convulsive affections, from the iritation they produce overcoming the morbid irritation which induced the spasm. Blisters by their local action relieve internal inflammatory diseases, by altering the balance of the circulation, and in part by diverting the attention from the prior seat of pain: hence their utility in opthalmia. Applied behind the ears, on

the temples, or the forehead, in phrenitis; over the head, in cynanche tonsillaris, and in small pox, when the swelling of the fanus affects respiration; upon or near the neck, and in phthisis, catarrh, hepatitis, pneumonia gastide and other intestinal inflammations, immediately over the seat of pain; in acute rheumatism, particularly that variety of it named sciatica, they have been found very useful. On the same principle caries in the bones and joints, or a disposition to it, is often cured by the repeated application of blisters:—under their application the enlargements obviously subside; the crepitation between the bones, the consequence of the abrasion of the cartilages, ceases to be felt. When the blister begins to operate, the use of the joint is effectually recovered, and anchylosis prevented. A succession of blisters also, to the vicinity of an inflamed organ, is more beneficial than a protracted discharge from one, and a second blister often relieves after the first has failed. Blisters are contra-indicated in diseases of great debility, where there is a tendency to mortification; as in the low stages of petichial fevers, cynanche maligna, confluent small pox, and malignant measles, and in dropsy, in which they are apt to occasion a very painful, dangerous, erysipelas and gangrene; peculiar idisyncrasies forbid their use in some persons, as they irritate, heat, produce thirst, pain, tremors, and sometimes convulsions; in those of irritable temperaments, their application is often attended with strangury and bloody urine, and this effect is much encreased if the blister be applied over an abraded surface, as a newly shaved head, or if the blister plaster be allowed to remain too long after the blister has risen. To prevent strangury from the application of blisters, camphor has been erroneously regarded as a specific: it is more effectually prevented and relieved by copious dilution with milk and mucilaginous fluids, and by fomentations of warm milk and water to the blistered part after the removal of the plaster; and much inconvenience of this nature may be prevented by interposing between the vesicatory and the skin, a piece of gauze wetted with vinegar, and applied smooth and close over the plaster.

This insect is found on the privet, ash, elder, lilac, white poplar, and the Tartarian honey-suckle in Spain, Italy, France, and to a certain extent over the greater part of Europe: they are two-thirds of an inch in length, and one-fourth of an inch in breadth, oblong, and of a green gold-shining colour, with soft elytra or wing-sheaths, with their longitudinal raised stripes, and covering brown membranous wings: the body is terminated by two small callous sharp spines, and on the head are two black jointed feelers; when alive they have a fœtid odour: they are gathered by smoking with brimstone the trees on which they are found, and catching them on a cloth spread underneath; they are sometimes simply shaken from the trees, and then killed by the steam of boiling vinegar, and dried either by the sun or a stove.

Blistering flies are imported from Sicily, but chiefly from Astracan, packed in casks and small chests. The best are of a lively fresh colour, a small size, and not mouldy, nor mixed with the melolontha vitis, an insect resembling them in some degree, but possessing no vesicating property. It may be distinguished by its form, which is altogether more square than that of the lytta, and by its black feet. If the blistering flies have been properly dried, and are kept in a well stopped glass bottle, they will remain unchanged in appearance, and retain their acrimony for a great length of time; but sometimes in spite of every precaution, they are attacked by a small worm, which however feeds on the inactive part only of the fly, reducing it to a powder, that still possesses the active quality of the entire insect. They soon putrefy when kept in a damp place, and therefore should occasionally be spread out to the air.

Blistering flies have a very heavy disagreeable odour, and an acid taste. Lewis found that their active constituents, are soluble both in water and alcohol, and that the residuum with these menstrua is inert. Thouvenet, Beaussoil, and Robequet, have analyzed this insect, but their enquiries lead to no very certain conclusions.

Thouvenet treated the entire flies with water, alcohol, and ether separately, submitting them to the press, and obtained the following results; 1st, Three-eighths of reddish yellow very bitter extractive, affording by distillation an acid liquor; 2d. One-tenth of concrete, waxy green oil, having the odour of the flies, and yielding by distillation, a very sharp acid, and a thick oil; 3d. One-fiftieth of concrete yellow oil, apparently the colouring matter of the insect; and 4th. One-half of solid parenchymatous matter. He imagines that the blistering principle resides in the green waxy oil, and that the strangury produced by blisters is the effect of the acid obtained from this oil by distillation.

Beaussoil, in his researches, found that an aqueous infusion of the flies, when exposed to the air, lets fall a yellow precipitate, exhales an ammoniacal odour, and reddens tincture of turnsole; the addition of ether or alcohol, divides it into two parts, viz. a black gluey matter, insoluble in alcohol, and a yellowish-brown very soluble matter. The black matter blistered the skin without affecting the urinary organs, the yellow matter did not blister when applied alone, but blistered quickly when united with wax; and a green matter which he also obtained, acted under similar circumstances, but less actively. Robequet asserts, that the flies, when recently collected, yield some uric acid; by treating them with water, alcohol, and ether, he obtained a peculiar matter, in the form of small crystalline micaceous plates, insoluble in water and cold alcohol, but soluble in boiling alcohol, and in ether, and very soluble in oils; on the presence of which the vesicatory property of the flies depend, and which, in combination with oil, might supersede their use.—Dr. Thomson has named it Cantharidin.

OPIUM EATING.

In our 5th number we inserted a letter from an opium eater, in which he craves a remedy for the pernicious habit. We were unavoidably obliged to defer our opinions upon it until now.

Since a work entitled "Confessions of an Opium Eater" has been published, many have indulged in this baneful practice, more particularly nervous and hypochondriac people. They have thus taken a short cut to the destruction of health. It is worse by far than dram drinking.

Opium was formerly supposed to be merely a sedative, and therefore was given indiscriminately when irritation was to be allayed. The consequences frequently were fatal; for opium possesses strong stimulating and constipating qualities, as well as a sedative power. The late experiments of Magendie and Robiquet have proved that opium contains two powerful, and distinctly operating substances, *morphine* and *narcotine*: the former possessing the sedative, the latter possessing the stimulating properties. The narcotine is the first in its action upon the nervous system when opium is taken, and then follows the action of the morphine; the first sensation experienced from a dose of opium is excitement, and the next a sedative sensation. Granting this to be the fact, we are of opinion that such a discovery is one of the most useful that has ever been made in medicine, for we have thus got a remedy possessing all the excellent properties of opium without its bad ones.

Unhappily we think that morphine will not content a practised opium eater, although we might recommend them to substitute it by way of trial; for it is the narcotine or exciting principle which they enjoy, just as the brandy drinker thirsts for the alcohol of the liquor.

The practice of opium eating commences frequently from using it first to allay pain. Its effects are recollected, and in cases where grief or any other cause produces a morally painful watchfulness this drug is resorted to, and thus it becomes indispensible to their happiness, while it is secretly destroying them. The habit is also produced in fashionable life, from taking a few drops of laudanum immediately before going into company, in order to raise the spirits. We knew an officer of the 5th dragoon guards, a consummate "*elegant*" who al-

ways took this enlivener whenever he was going into ladies' company. The consequences were very bad—indigestion of a most compound character took possession of his system—he lost his healthy appearance, and no doubt, if he has continued the laudanum, has by this time ruined his constitution.

There is a pauper upon the books of the Mendicity Society, who is the greatest opium eater in England. One of his names is Smith. There is little doubt that he took to this practice for the purpose of producing upon him a debilitated aspect, and thus qualify him for his profession of begging. He is a tall, extremely thin, yellow, die-away-looking man, about fifty years of age, and walks, or rather creeps, as if he had just arisen from his grave—starvation sits upon his lip, and misery upon his brow—yet this man eats two or three shillings worth of opium in the day. When he is deprived of this drug from want of money to purchase it, he becomes almost raving mad and hysterical, falls down in the street in most terrible tremors, which generally has the effect of obtaining for him a few pence by the charity of the passengers, when he runs immediately to the apothecaries, and sits all night by his favourite quid. It may be imagined that this man could not do without opium; but the following circumstance will prove that he could be brought to it by proper restriction. He was imprisoned once for a month, and for the first few days was incessantly roaring and lamenting for his opium, declaring that he should die if he did not get it. The surgeon allowed him a moderate quantity, informing him that he should have no more for three days. This obliged the opium eater to portion his allowance of comfort according to his resources. The next allowance from the surgeon was a less quantity, and the third a still less, refusing at last to allow him any. The man became reconciled, and before the period of his imprisonment expired, he was in excellent health, nor did he feel a wish for his former habit

The best mode of removing the desire for eating opium, is to lessen gradually the quantity taken daily, and to smoke tobacco frequently in the day. This may be substituting one bad habit for another, but smoking tobacco is far less injurious than eating opium; besides when the habit of eating opium is removed, that of smoking may be also removed by lessening repetitions.

To counteract the bad effects of opium, laxative medicines must be used daily as long as the opium is used. Acids and coffee should also be freely used.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

THE uses of the bile have of late much engaged the attention of physiologists. Mr. Hunter observed that it did not seem to incorporate with the chyle; and it certainly cannot do so and retain its own nature, since its colour and taste are so intense, that it would impart these properties to the chyle, if mixed with it in the smallest quantity. The difficulty of conceiving that the two fluids can be agitated together by the peristaltic motion of the intestines, without becoming incorporated, has led to an opinion that the bile may combine with the alimentary matter, and lose its original properties, but nothing of this kind is ascertained. Fourcroy thinks that the alkali and saline ingredients of the bile may combine with the chyle, and render it more fluid, while the albumen and resin may combine with the excrementitious matter. It is, indeed, evident that the bile combines either totally or partially with something separated from the chyle, and exists formally in it, and in a state of health, uniformly dyes it of its peculiar colour; and therefore it has of late been supposed, that the bile may serve to purify the chyle, by precipitating and combining with its feculent parts.

"It has been said in the brief and general recital that has been given of the symptoms, which characterise disorder in the chylopoietic organs, that the stools are of an unnatural colour and odour. Medical men entertain various opinions respecting the colour of the fæces; to me this property seems generally to depend on the kind

and quantity of the bile. All the secretions, which are poured into the alimentary canal, except the bile, are colourless or white; if, therefore, this fluid were wanting, the residue of the aliment would be of the colour, which might be expected to result from its undigested parts combined together. When, for instance, the secretion of bile is stopped by the irritation of teething in children, whose diet is chiefly bread and milk, the fæces are white; when this secretion is obstructed in adults, the stools are pale like whitish-brown paper.

"In cases of disease, however, coloured excretions may take place from the bowels. There is great reason for ascribing the discharges in the disease called melæna to a vitiated secretion from the surface of the alimentary canal. I was intimately acquainted with a patient, who suffered repeated and increasing attacks of constitutional irritation. When the disorder was wrought up, as it were, to a crisis, he was forewarned by a sensation, as if his stomach was filling, of the occurrence that was about to take place. In less than a quarter of an hour he would vomit more than two quarts of a fluid resembling coffee grounds in colour and consistence. Shortly afterwards very copious discharges of a similar darker coloured and offensive matter, took place from the bowels; but a green viscid bile, appearing distinct and uncombined, was intermixed with this. These evacuations ceased in a day or two, and the constitutional irritation disappeared with them.

"I examined the bodies of several persons who died under attacks of this nature, and found the villous coat of the alimentary canal highly inflamed, swoln and pulpy. Bloody specks were observed in various parts; and sphacelation had actually taken place in one instance. The liver was healthy in some cases, and diseased in others. I conclude therefore that these diseases which were termed hæmatemesis and melæna, arose from a violent disorder, and consequent diseased secretion of the internal coat of the bowels: and that the blood, discharged when the affection was at its height, did not flow from any single vessel, but from the various points of the diseased surface.

"Indeed I think it probable, that the profuse discharges, which sometimes follow the continued exhibition of purgatives, consist of morbid secretions from the bowels themselves, and not of the residue of alimentary matter detained in those organs. Such evacuations, either occurring spontaneously, or excited by medicine, frequently relieve irritation of the chylopoietic viscera.

"It seems probable that the stools which re-emble pitch are principally composed of diseased secretions from the internal surface of the intestines, since they do not seem either like the residue of the food or discharges from the liver. Can we suppose that all the black and fetid matter which was discharged from the bowels, in the first case, was poured forth solely from the liver?

"The subject of morbid secretions is however particularly illustrated by that well-known alvine discharge, which so much resembles yeast in colour and consistence that it cannot be confounded with fæces, with blood, or with a vitiated secretion from the liver. A medical man of my acquaintance took, for some disorder in his stomach and bowels, an aperient medicine, which apparently emptied those organs. He ate nothing but a little bread in broth for his dinner, and a small quantity with his tea in the evening. He experienced an uneasiness in his bowels, and an inclination to evacuate them after he had gone to bed; but he resisted this desire till four o'clock in the morning, when its urgency forced him to rise. He then discharged, what he supposed to amount in quantity to a gallon, of a matter exactly like yeast, unmixed with any bile or fæces. When he arose in the morning, he had a similar evacuation of about a quart; and on the succeeding day there was a solid stool, apparently of the same substance, coloured of a light green from an admixture of bile. He had a natural stool next day: his appetite returned, and the uneasy sensations subsided.

"An unhealthy colour of the fæces may further be attributed to some degeneracy in the quality of the alimentary matter; such as may be supposed

to take place when the digestive organs fail in the performance of their offices, and different alimentary substances are in consequence detained in the bowels, where they may pass through chemical decompositions, and re-combinations. But though I am inclined to allow the full operation of these causes, the following reasons lead me to believe that the colour of the fæces generally depends on the kind and quantity of the bile. In the natural state of the digestive organs, when there is no peculiarity of diet, and no medicine is taken, the bile alone colours the residue of the food. The fæces voided during a state of disorder of the digestive organs are sometimes partially coloured; which circumstance cannot be well accounted for upon any other supposition than that of an irregular secretion of the bile. Fluids secreted from the intestines do not usually enter into combination with the fæcal matter, but appear distinctly when excreted. Thus we find mucus and jelly discharged from the bowels, unmixed with the fæces. Medicines which affect the liver produce a very sudden change in the colour of the fæces. Small doses of mercury, without any alteration of diet, sometimes change the stools immediately from a blackish to a light yellow colour, which indicates a healthy but deficient secretion of bile.

"The appearance of healthy bile in the human subject is that of a deep brown, resembling a mass of powdered rhubarb when just moistened with water. Yet if bile be dropped into water, a single drop will dye a large quantity of water of a bright yellow, so that the deep brown appearance is the effect of the intensity of the yellow colour. In health there ought to be so much bile poured into the bowels, as when commixed with the residue of the food, to dye it of the peculiar colour of bile. It is right however to say that the colour of the bile may vary considerably without any apparent disorder of the organ which prepares it, or of the health in general. Sometimes, indeed, we find green bile in the gall bladder, when the liver is not diseased. I cannot, however, but think that the natural colour is a yellow, so intense as to appear brown. Green bile is usually poured out in circumstances where there is evident disorder of the digestive organs; and we cannot well suppose that there are two kinds of healthy bile. The quantity of this fluid should be such as completely to tinge the excrement of its peculiar colour. By attending, therefore, to the colour of the fæces, the kind and quantity of bile, which the liver excretes, may in general be ascertained.

"The colour of the alvine excretions in disordered states of the viscera is various. Sometimes they appear to consist of the residue of the food, untinged by bile. Sometimes they are of a light yellow colour, which denotes a very deficient quantity of healthy biliary secretion; they may also be of a deep olive, of a clay brown, and of a blackish brown; all which shew a vitiated state of the biliary secretion.

"Any kind of brown, which dilution will not convert into yellow, I should consider as unhealthy, since the colour of healthy bile is a bright yellow, which by concentration appears brown.

"Such are the circumstances which I have collected from my own observation, and the reports of others, relative to the alvine excretions, in the disorders which have been described."

(To be continued.)

ARSON.

The charge of arson may occasionally become the subject of scientific research, and the accused individual receive an honourable acquittal at the hands of the chemical philosopher; by whose interposition, the conflagration, unjustly imputed to malice, may be proved to have originated from a spontaneous process of decomposition.

Spontaneous combustion may be defined, *an inflammation occasioned by the re-action of different bodies upon each other, at the ordinary heat of the atmosphere, without the contact or approach of any other body previously raised to a high temperature.* This definition necessarily excludes that class of substances which evolve gaseous matter of a highly inflammable nature, but which requires

the approach of an ignited body to kindle it.

The subject of spontaneous combustion has attracted the attention of many very eminent chemists, and an extensive series of experiments has been instituted in several different countries for its complete investigation, the results of which have thrown considerable light upon the causes which operate in the production of the phenomenon, as well as upon the nature of the substances most liable to such an accension, and the particular circumstances which are essential to its occurrence. The following may be considered as the principal sources from which it may originate, —viz.

I. *Friction.*

II. *Fermentation of Vegetable and Animal Substances*, as that of hay, oatmeal, roasted bran, coffee, &c. rags in paper mills, &c.

III. *Chemical Action.* Accension of oils, by various animal, vegetable and mineral substances; accension of vegetable matter by concentrated acids; ignition of lime by the affusion of water; ignition of pyrites.

We shall proceed to consider these subjects more in detail.

I. *Friction.*—The kindling of machinery, when not sufficiently greased, from the friction of its various parts, has occurred too frequently to require much illustration, although the immediate cause of the phenomenon involves in its consideration so many recondite points in the theory of caloric, as at present to elude our attempts at explanation; we must therefore rest upon it as an ultimate fact, and be satisfied with availing ourselves of the advantages to which a knowledge of it may conduce. The original inhabitants of the New World, throughout the whole extent from Patagonia to Greenland, procured fire by rubbing pieces of hard and dry wood against each other, until they emitted sparks, or kindled into flame; some of the people to the north of California produced the same effect by inserting a kind of pivot in the hole of a very thick plank, and causing it to revolve with extreme rapidity. This fact will explain how immense forests have been consumed, from the violent friction of the branches against each other by the wind.

II. *Fermentation of vegetable and animal substances.*—In order to establish the process of fermentation, the presence of water appears indispensable: we accordingly find that in all the cases of spontaneous combustion which have originated from this source, the substances have either been in themselves imbued with moisture, or they have possessed the power of absorbing a considerable portion of water from the atmosphere. The firing of hay, when stacked in too moist a condition, is a striking exemplification of this fact. The same circumstance occurs from great accumulation of turf, flax, and hemp, heaps of linen rags in paper mills, &c. provided a sufficient portion of moisture be present to excite the process of fermentation, and the consequent evolution of heat. Oatmeal, from the extreme avidity with which it imbibes water, and the heat which is generated by the absorption of it, is necessarily liable to spontaneous combustion. The following well authenticated case may serve as an illustration of this fact:

"A gentleman removed with his family from Glasgow to Largs, in May last, and shut up his house, which was not re-opened until the end of August. The house stands on the side of a steep declivity, so that the kitchen, which is in the back part, though sunk considerably below the level of the street, is entirely above ground, and is well lighted and ventilated. In an opening of the wall, near the kitchen fire-place, originally intended, it is supposed, for an oven, there was placed a wooden barrel, bound with iron hoops, and filled with oatmeal. This meal, which had heated during the absence of the family, at last caught fire, and was totally consumed, together with the barrel which contained it; nothing remaining but the iron hoops and a few pieces of charcoal."

In some cases torrefaction increases the propensity of vegetable substances to spontaneous combustion; coffee, roasted French beans, lentils, &c. are of this description.

Some years ago a fire broke out in the village of Nauslitz, which is said to have been occasioned by the application of roasted bran to the necks of some cattle in a wooden cow-house: in consequence of which, M. Rude, an apothecary at Bautzen, instituted some experiments, by which he found that, if rye-bran, roasted until it acquires the colour of coffee, be wrapped up in a linen cloth, it will in a short time take fire. Monlet relates that animal substances may also, under certain circumstances of decomposition, kindle into flame; and he tells us that he had himself witnessed the spontaneous accension of a dunghill. We do not believe that the phosphoric appearances that so frequently accompany the process of putrefaction, especially that of fish, are ever connected with actual combustion. Woollen stuffs are said to have taken fire spontaneously: it is related, for instance, that the article manufactured at Cevennes, and which bears the name of *Emperor's stuff*, has thus kindled of itself, and burnt to coal. We are, however, very doubtful whether such a material is liable to this process, unless it be impregnated with oily matter; and this doubt will receive considerable strength from the facts which we shall hereafter enumerate.

III. *Chemical action.*—This proves a very frequent cause of spontaneous combustion; and there is perhaps no substance that has so frequently performed the part of an incendiary as fixed oil, especially when of a drying nature, which, with its various accomplices from the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, has, in darkness and secresy, consigned ships, houses, and manufactories to the flames. The following occurrence is related in the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal:—"About twenty-five pieces of cloth, each of which contained nearly thirty ells, were deposited upon wooden planks in a cellar at Lyons, on the 8th of July 1815, in order to conceal them from the armies which then over-ran France: in the manufacture of the cloth, 25lbs. of oil were used for a quintal of wool, and the cloth was quite greasy, each piece weighing from 80lbs. to 90lbs.; the cellar had an opening to the north, which was carefully shut up with dung, and the door was concealed by bundles of vine-props, which freely admitted the air. On the morning of the 4th of August, an intolerable stench was perceived, and the person who entered the cellar was surrounded by a thick smoke, which he could not support. A short time afterwards he re-entered with precaution, holding a stable lanthorn in his hand, and was astonished to perceive a shapeless glutinous mass, apparently in a state of putrefaction: he then removed the dung from the openings, and, as soon as a circulation of air was established, the cloth instantly took fire. In another corner of the cellar lay a heap of stuffs, which had been ungreased and prepared for the fuller, but *they had suffered no change.*" In this case the agency of the oil was sufficiently evident.

In June, 1781, a similar occurrence happened at a woolcomber's, in a manufacturing town in Germany, where a heap of wool-combings, piled up in a close warehouse seldom aired, took fire spontaneously. This wool had been by little and little brought into the warehouse, and, from want of room, been piled up very high and trodden down. That this combed wool, to which rape-oil mixed with butter had been added in the combing, burnt of itself, was sworn to by many witnesses; one of whom affirmed that ten years preceding, a similar fire had happened among the flocks of wool at a clothier's, who had put them into a cask, where they were rammed down hard for facility of carriage, and that this wool burnt from within outwards, and became quite a cinder.

Cotton goods, in which linseed-oil had been spilt, have burnt in a similar manner, and there is reason to attribute to an accident of this kind the recent loss of a merchant-vessel, homeward bound from the East Indies.

Many years since, several fires broke out, at very short intervals, in a rope-walk, and in some wooden houses in St. Petersburgh; in none of which instances could the slightest suspicion of wilful firing be entertained. There was lying in the rope-walk, where the cables for the navy are made, a great quantity of hemp, amongst

which a considerable portion of oil had been carelessly spilt, and the article was accordingly declared to have been spoilt; in consequence of which it was purchased at a low price, and, being heaped up together, it had given rise to the conflagration. The interior inhabitants had also purchased parcels of this spoilt hemp, for closing the chinks and caulking the windows of their houses: a fact which offered an easy explanation of the origin of the fires that occurred amongst the houses. It was moreover reported that, at the above-mentioned rope-walk, coils of cable had been frequently discovered so hot, that the people were obliged to separate them to prevent further danger. In the year 1757, as Montet reports, sail-cloth, smeared with oil and ochre, took fire in a magazine at Brest. In the spring of 1780, a fire was discovered on-board a frigate lying in the road off Cronstadt, which, had it not been timely extinguished, would have endangered the whole fleet. After the most severe scrutiny, no cause of the fire was to be found, and strong surmises existed that some wicked incendiary had occasioned it.

* * *

It sometimes happens that, in boiling flowers and herbs in oil, which occurs in several pharmaceutic operations, these herbs, after being taken out, dried, and pressed, inflame spontaneously: care therefore should be taken, when such substances are thrown aside, that they are not heaped up near other combustible bodies.

Amongst the mineral substances capable of exciting the inflammation of oils, an ore of manganese, known by the name of the *black wad of Derbyshire*, holds a distinguished place: when this substance is pulverised, and moistened with a little linseed oil, it will, in the space of an hour, take fire, and become red hot, like burning small-coal. It is supposed that the Pantheon, in Oxford-street, was destroyed by the inflammation of a compound of Derbyshire wad and oil, used in painting the scenery.

In these cases of combustion, oxygen seems to act an important part, and, by combining with the hydrogen of oil, to excite a chemical action, which may be considered the immediate cause of the phenomenon. Sawdust, and other vegetable matter, has been occasionally excited into flame by the action of the concentrated mineral acids. We have been lately informed by Mr. Parkes, that a fire took place, some years since, in his chemical manufactury, in consequence of the leakage from a carboy of nitric acid. Several instances are also on record of fires having been occasioned by the sudden slaking of quicklime. Theophrastus relates an instance of a ship which was loaded in part with linen, and in part with quicklime, having been set on fire by water that was accidently thrown over the latter, and that the vessel was in consequence entirely consumed. In the Journal de la Haute Saone, there is an account of the burning of a barn, one of the partitions of which, being wood, had caught fire from a quantity of quicklime, intended for the repair of the premises, having been carelessly thrown against it. In this country, a similar accident happened in the last winter at Edmonton, near London; the flood, consequent upon a heavy fall of rain, made its way among the quicklime in a bricklayer's premises, which took fire, and were burnt.

There still remains for notice another source of spontaneous burning, —the ignition of *pyrites*, and that of cinders from the furnaces of glass works, from exposure to air and moisture. It was in this manner that the ship Ajax was supposed to have been consumed, from the spontaneous combustion of coal abounding in pyrites.

SHORT MAXIMS FOR HEALTH.

EAT no suppers, or at least let them be light: half-a-dozen oysters, or a cup of sago and wine, are the best.

Brush the mouth and teeth well every morning, with a tooth brush and cold water. It would be well to do the same at night.

Never allow the stomach to remain too long without food, nor stop the sensation of hunger by drink.

If employed in study, always make an hour or two subservient to pleasure, and exercise in the open air.

Do not walk to fatigue, for that debilitates very much.

Dancing is a most wholesome ex-

ercise both for the mind and body, but avoid excess in it.

Nuts of all kinds are unwholesome.

Always keep the feet from wet.

Never put on linen that is not well aired.

Beware of damp beds; for these are destructive.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Teething.

TEETHING is the trouble-time of infants, the time of suffering and danger. Dentition generally commences between the fifth and seventh or eighth month, although it frequently does not happen till after that period, and sometimes before the third month. This process continues for several months. The two fore teeth of the under jaw appear first, and two more then appear in the upper jaw directly opposite, Soon after appear the back teeth, and last of all the eye teeth. The number thus cut are generally sixteen, although some have twenty.

In proportion to the health of the infant, the process of teething will be rapid and certain; for unhealthy children scarcely ever have a good dentition, and their teeth appear irregular in making their appearance from the gums. If the two first teeth come out without much trouble, a similar success may be expected in the following; but if one appears at an unexpected place in the jaws, and another at a distance from it, the infant will, most likely, suffer much in the succeeding.

The symptoms of teething are, swelling of the gums, drivelling at the mouth, redness of the cheeks, languor of the eyes, hot skin, restlessness and crossness, and the bowels are generally affected more or less: these are the ordinary symptoms; but in bad cases, starting and screaming in sleep, difficulty of breathing, cough, and convulsions are most common.

When the bowels are regular, or rather more laxative than usual, it is a good symptom; and if there is a great flow of saliva from the mouth it is also good. It is remarked that children cut teeth better in winter than in summer, and that thin children have an easier time than the more plethoric, because the latter are more disposed to inflammation. Yet a too delicate state of the body will be also attended with danger, such as wasting, pining away to a skeleton.

The great point to be observed with infants who are cutting their teeth is, to keep the bowels constantly free. Nature generally accomplishes this, but where it does not happen, artificial means must be resorted to. The best medicine for this purpose, is

A drachm of Sulphate of Potass

divided into six powders, one to be taken every day. If not sufficient to procure three or four motions in the day, the dose should be increased in quantity.

If the disease runs high—great pain in the gums and heat of the skin, the infant should be put into warm water for a few minutes, well dried after it, put to bed with its mother, and a small blister put behind the ears. This will certainly relieve. Mothers should not be afraid to put on blisters when they are necessary; they in general think that a child suffers great pain from a blister, but they are wrong. To an infant there is little or no pain in blisters—it is merely a sensation of heat, which is only felt disagreeable where the mind is conscious of the blister being on. The infant does not know, and therefore feels but little sensation from it. Blisters ought to be more frequently applied than they now are. People think that when a blister is ordered in any complaint, particularly to children—it is all over with them. This is unfounded fear.

When the gums become very much swelled and there is great febrile heat with no appearance of the teeth, a surgeon should operate upon the gums by incising them, which will be of great service.

In general the only mode of treatment necessary to be adopted is, to keep the bowels free by the above powder, which may be alternately used with magnesia:—the child must be neither muffled up, nor too lightly clad. A warm bath must be given occasionally, with emollient injections. Should ulceration take place

during dentition, which is not unfrequent, a little alum dissolved in a little water and mixed with honey, so as to give it a rough taste, should be applied with a feather.

It is in this period of infantine suffering that opium commits the greatest havock. Mrs. Johnson's "Soothing Syrup," and all the other "Soothers," are only disguises which this dangerous medicine assumes to destroy the teething little ones. Whenever they are administered, they are in nine cases out of ten, given not so much to ease the child as to give the unnatural mother or lazy nurse a good night's rest. Whatever excuse there may be for the callousness of nurses, there is none for mothers, and we warn the fathers of families to take care that nothing in the shape of "*Syrup of Poppies*," or "*Soothing*" stuff, be ever permitted to be given to their children while they are teething.

The child may be restless and noisy but time will soon pass by, and the mother may then sleep with the true soothing balm to her conscience, *that she has watched* over and done her duty to her infant. To those mothers who have not read our remarks upon the effects of opium upon infants, we recommend an attentive consideration of them.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

An injection of rue-decoction will relieve convulsions, and spasms in infants.

Rue has been a favourite medicine with the old school, even so far back as Hippocrates. The injection is good.

—

To stand upon cold stone to relieve cramp in the legs.—This remedy has often succeeded, but we think it may leave a worse effect than what it removes—a severe cold.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Good application to ulcerated Gums.

Drop as much diluted sulphuric acid into a glass of water, as will make it an agreeable acid taste.—Wash the mouth frequently with it.

Another.

To a wine-glass of water, add two drachms of the tincture of myrrh.—Wash the mouth with it.—This last might be used alternately with the first.

THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. V.

Physiology.

If we are to credit the promises of M. Chaussier, physiology will be brought in Paris to a degree of perfection never equalled before in any other school. He is the author of the greatest part of the discoveries which have been announced; unfortunately, however, they never have been made public. His works are as yet in his closet; and if some bookseller zealous for the progress of science, does not soon satisfy the pretensions of the author, by rising to a *hundred thousand* the sum of *eighty thousand francs*, which another bookseller has already offered for the new treatise on Physiology, the great age of M. Chaussier gives us every reason to doubt that we shall never witness the revolution which his book has promised to make.

Amongst the lectures of Paris, it is not an uncommon fault to speak so low that the distant part of their auditory cannot catch a word. M. Chaussier is remarkable for this; but he has some excuse from the loss of his teeth and the feebleness of age. His courses are attended by a numerous auditory. He has been long a teacher of physiology, and his peculiar doctrines, although not published by himself, are scattered through the works of his pupils.

The works of M. Richerand have a vast reputation,—but that reputation is more amongst philosophers than amongst the faculty. He has revived the theory of muscular contraction, which Gislanner broached, and has given one of his own upon the phenomena of resemblances in man, equally as visionary.

In the eighteenth century a professor in the school of Montpellier, Bordeu, brought to the capital the first elements of solecism, which augmented with the disciples of Hal-

ler, and which is not likely to receive an antidote in the opinions of Richerand.

In speaking of anatomy, we have shewn that Bichat has given this party considerable impulse. In his "*Anatomie Générale*," and in his work upon life and death, he resembles the materials and the plan of some great work which there is not time to put together. His works have become a species of holy writing which we cannot criticise without sacrilege. Bichat was a man of great genius. He died young; but his works contain the gems of future discoveries, and which his short day permitted him not to mature. The taste or rather mania for dissecting living animals, was introduced by him, and experiments in this branch became numerous. Yet their labours have not produced much; and even the discovery of Magendie upon the double powers in the spinal nerves, is only what Charles Bell has made before. This fury for opening living animals has made them neglect the true source of useful physiogical knowledge, the study of the sick man. In vain did Barthez call the attention of physiologists to this means of investigation; the faculty have pursued and still pursue their march to materialism, endeavouring to prove the immortality of matter and the mechanism of thought.

In a preceding number we stated, that the English had brought anatomy to greater perfection than the French, although with less means of study. The French are much more to blame in neglecting this fine science, than to be praised for the zeal with which they have prosecuted the study of comparative anatomy. Certainly there is no nation upon the earth which possesses such means of studying this branch of science:—their possessions in the two hemispheres—the activity of their maritime commerce—the zeal and learning of their numerous travellers—afford every facility of procuring animals of all countries. Yet comparative anatomy is far from the perfection in England to what it is arrived to in France by the labours of Buffon and his successors. But in spite of the progress of this science, its applications to physiology are not very numerous. If in the magnificent mesæum of *Le Jardin des Plantes* we blamed the inattention to preparations in spirits of wine, we must eulogize the other species of preparations in comparative anatomy and natural history. French physiologists are persuaded that the science of human physical formation must give way to comparative anatomy; yet they study it with no view of applying the knowledge it produces to the science of medicine and the cure of disease.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

[*Goss & Co. are unavoidably postponed.*]

We have had all the Quacks upon our back this week.—Courtenay has sent at all lawyer-looking gentleman to our publishers, with a polite letter in one hand, and a threat in the other. This polite letter contains a long account of the Doctor's medical pedigree—how he was bound 'prentice to an apothecary at fifteen years of age—how he practised and practised—visited Edinburgh and *Bologne*—how at the latter place he was appointed physician to the *Princess Nareskini*, a Russian Princess!—that he is a member of the Apothecaries' Company—and that his credentials may be seen in his parlour—framed and glazed!

This is all very fine; but if Dr. Courtenay wishes us to restore him, as he hints, to the rank our observations have deprived him of, he must send us more *substantial* testimonials than a tall *lawyer-like* gentleman, or a polite letter

When Courtenay mentioned law, he perhaps had not seen his brethrens' trials, Dr. Eady and "Doctor" Nesbit. We beg to inform him, if he has not yet read the report of those presumers,—that one lost damages of £160, and the other lost his impudent action with costs; thus meeting *in the law* nothing but contempt and punishment.

We again say, we defy the Quacks. Mr. Simpson also sends us *a polite* letter which we insert.—We suppose he meant it as a puff for his pills,—but to guard against the imposition which the public may suffer, who

might be simple enough to buy his pills at his price, we will now give a receipt for what will not cost a fourth of the money, and far more efficacious than any quack pills.

Vegetable Laxative Pills
Of Extract of Jalap, 30 grains
Of Extract of Colocynth, 20 grains
Of Scammony, 10 grains
Of Oil of Cloves, 10 drops
Of Ginger, 20 grains

mix and make into twenty-four pills two or three a dose.

—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

A friend of mine, who is also "*A friend of true science*," has this day introduced your work to my notice, and as I presume you are open to all parties, but influenced by none, I beg to make a short reply to this "*Friend of true Science*," who presumes to designate me as one of the (ignorant) druggists of family pills, and also one of the "*consummate quacks*."

Your correspondent says, he is a practitioner in the vicinity of the Kingsland Road. Now, Sir, you no doubt know, that the greater portion of *practitioners* in that quarter keep shops, and you no doubt also know, that most of these *practitioners* prepare a *family pill* of their own, which they sell for one shilling and sixpence up to half a crown a box, and evade the government duty by being "*practitioners*," and, (as they say) advising medicine according to the case. Most of these pills are a mere compound of either aloes and the common mercurial pill—vulgarly called blue pill, or of more drastic medicines combined with calomel, antimony, &c.

"Ignorant" as this Friend of true Science is pleased to call me, I have sufficient knowledge of medicine and chemistry to detect the above minerals in any pills, as the public shall immediately see. I however defy him to analyse my pills, which are formed from the vegetable kingdom alone.

The simple history of my connexion with the Arabian vegetable pills, (which I vend merely, and do not prepare, although well acquainted with their composition,) is, that a member of my family had been a victim to a *practitioner* of the description I will suppose your "*Friend of true Science*" to be, and I was induced by a most respectable family to try these very pills, from which my relative found such relief, that I sought out the proprietor, who is at this time a practitioner of such eminence, that your correspondent would I think hide his diminished consequence before him. Having much spare time, I entered into an arrangement with this gentleman for a share in the medicine, taking on myself that active part in promoting its sale, which the illiberality of the profession denies to medical practitioners.

I cannot conclude without observing, that when persons descend to abuse, it is a proof that either they are in a passion, or their interest is suffering—certainly it does not show the gentleman. As to your correspondent's sending you my history, he is welcome to my biography: I am satisfied if he tells truth it will not prove injurious to my character, and in no case can it affect the widely acknowledged efficacy of my pills.

I hope as you have undertaken to lash quackery, that you will not fail to expose some of the tricks of regular *practitioners*.

And am, Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
J. V. SIMPSON.

28, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden,
February 28, 1821.

—

"*Dr. Gardner's last and best Bed-Room.*"

A tomb in the most conspicuous part of Shoreditch church-yard, with the above inscription, obtrudes itself upon the notice of passengers, doubtless intended by its owner, a notorious quack, in this neighbourhood, as an advertisement to sell his wares:—

Some time since a friend of mine in the neighbourhood, having a real or fancied ailment, called at the doctor's shop in Shoreditch, who had just retired to *his country seat*, his representative, a prim starch female body, habited in a quaker-like garb, enquired of the applicant the nature of his complaint, and thus questioned him:—

"You feel a sort of gnawing at your stomach before dinner, do you not?"

"Yes I do occasionally."

"A little sickish and heavy after a full meal?"

"Exactly so."

"You are troubled occasionally with dreams?"

"Yes, frequently."

"Aye," continues the doctress, "all these are certain indications of worms, and these are the sort you are affected with," exhibiting a bottle containing a number of apparently small worms strung, suspended in spirits. "I would recommend you to take the pills and tincture."

"Very well, give me a small box of the pills, I'll try them." The small boxes, she rejoined, are for infants, and would to you be useless—you will require a ten shilling box of the pills, and a seven shilling bottle of the tincture.

These were purchased by the young gentleman; he commenced taking them according to the printed directions; finding himself no better, he called on the doctor, who, instead of entering upon the subject of his disease, began a mawkish lecture upon religious subjects, talking of his own attendance upon Missionary Bible Societies, and similar meetings, modestly intimating that he was willing to receive more than one visit for one fee: he desired the patient to continue the use of the pills, and encrease the dose; again he called, again the hypocritical canter renewed his advice to continue the use of his medicine in encreased doses, the result of these visits, pill and potion taking, was, the patient grew from apparently well to ill, from ill to worse, and now, even whilst my pen is on the paper, this young man, in the spring of his days, "passeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets."

I have scarcely patience to restrain my indignation when I see a man like this Gardner, by hypocritical cant, affected sanctity, specious pretensions, daring impiety, and egregious falsehoods, for years gulling the public, and amassing wealth:—from a common soldier he became the vender of vermifuge, his leaden balls then charged with death, now changed to bolusses, probably not less fatal,—he still labours in his vocation in each profession, alike licensed to kill *secundem artem*.

The chamber of death, sir, to a man who can reflect upon a well spent life, may indeed be termed "the last and best bed-room;" but to one who has attained hoary age in the practice of hypocrisy and delusion, the contemplation of this last remove to the house appointed for all living, must be attended with recollections and reflections, more easily conceived than described. We are taught that there is a "place where the *worm* dieth not," and if this paper should meet the eye of this veteran sinner, suffer me to offer him a few words of brief advice whilst yet the place which forms the title of this letter remains untenanted, let him make the only reparation in his power, avow his deceptious tricks, apply his ill-got gains in acts of charity, and spend the remainder of the days nature allots him, in befitting himself for that receptacle where guile and artifice no longer avail, and *where the wicked cease from troubling;* then indeed even *his intended* tenement may become his "last and best bed-room."

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
W. R.

Stoke Newington, Feb. 17, 1824.

—

We understand the tape worms are manufactured from chickens' guts.

The small round worms of various substances, sometimes vermicelli.

Others of the peristaltic monsters, "green, yellow, and blue," are easily obtained. Insects and reptiles of the earth air, and sea.

Worm Museum.—"Tape worm expelled by Dr. Gardner's Medicine, 200 feet long, Shoreditch, and Long Acre."

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

Tobacco.—The essential oil produced from tobacco, is a strong poison. The Hottentots use it to destroy snakes. Mr. Barrow, a late traveller, says that he saw a Hottentot apply some of this oil from the end of his wooden pipe to the mouth of a snake while darting out his tongue. A convulsive motion as instantaneous as electricity ensued, and the snake became lifeless. The muscles on

examination were found hard, as if they had been dried. The colour of this oil is green.

THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.—The death of this amiable princess was lamented in a manner which did honour to the character of Englishmen. The honours which are due to the memory of the illustrious dead were proposed, and thousands of pounds immediately subscribed for the accomplishment.— A Cenotaph was to be erected—yet we hear no more of it now. We mention this circumstance in order to suggest to the committee for the management of the subscription, that a *Lying-in Hospital* would be the best monument that could be erected to the memory of our lamented Princess.—Every female that would in such an asylum feel the pains of labour and the comforts of its walls, would also breathe a prayer upon the name of Charlotte.

Anecdote of Mr. A—r—thy.—A gentleman some short time ago went to consult this surgeon, and when he commenced describing his case, was suddenly interrupted by the hand of Ab——thy stopping his mouth, accompanied by a roar of "*No long stories.*" "Sir," replied the indignant patient, "I came here to consult you."—"Damn consulting, why don't you tell your case?" —"You won't let me"—"You don't know how to tell it."—Thus it went on for a minute or two, when the gentleman in a resolute tone demanded whether he intended to listen to his mode of telling his case. "No," replied the stubborn son of Galen. "Then, Sir," returned the patient, "I came from a great distance to consult you, and *I'm damn'd but you shall hear me.*" He ran to the door of the apartment, locked it, put the key in his pocket, coolly drew a chair, and began to describe his case; at which A—r—y laughed heartily and listened to what he had to say.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. N. of Guilford, would oblige us by the drawing of the woman's head, who died with the enormous wen. There is not so much to complain of as his letter sets forth: if he peruses any late treatise on forensic medicine, he will find that the law is sufficient upon that point.

W. J. H. will find a remedy for warts in our next.

C's. case is not to be treated by medicine. If he could engage his mind in some pursuit that would entirely engross as well as please his imagination, (always guarding against indigestion) he would be cured. Matrimony, or a passionate and virtuous attachment, is the best of all remedies. Familiar company, with a moderate quantity of wine would also greatly assist.

M. G's. favour is greatly esteemed—the articles alluded to are excellent, but are written in too refined a style of satire for such a monster as quackery. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies.

H. G, perhaps may find calcined magnesia sufficient.

X. will find ten grains of sulphate of zinc to a wine glass of water sufficient. We congratulate him on his recovery.

N. B. is informed that the prognosticating surgeon may turn out a "lying prophet." *At present, we cannot treat of the disease alluded to.*

W. C. I. R. of St. Luke's, must tell us where to direct to him.

WOULD BE CURED, *has written no case. He will see an account of Eady the quack in one of our numbers. Leake's pills are poison.*

A Correspondent at Saxilby is informed that such does exist, and that its effects are pernicious in the extreme, but Solomon's Balm of Gilead is still more so.

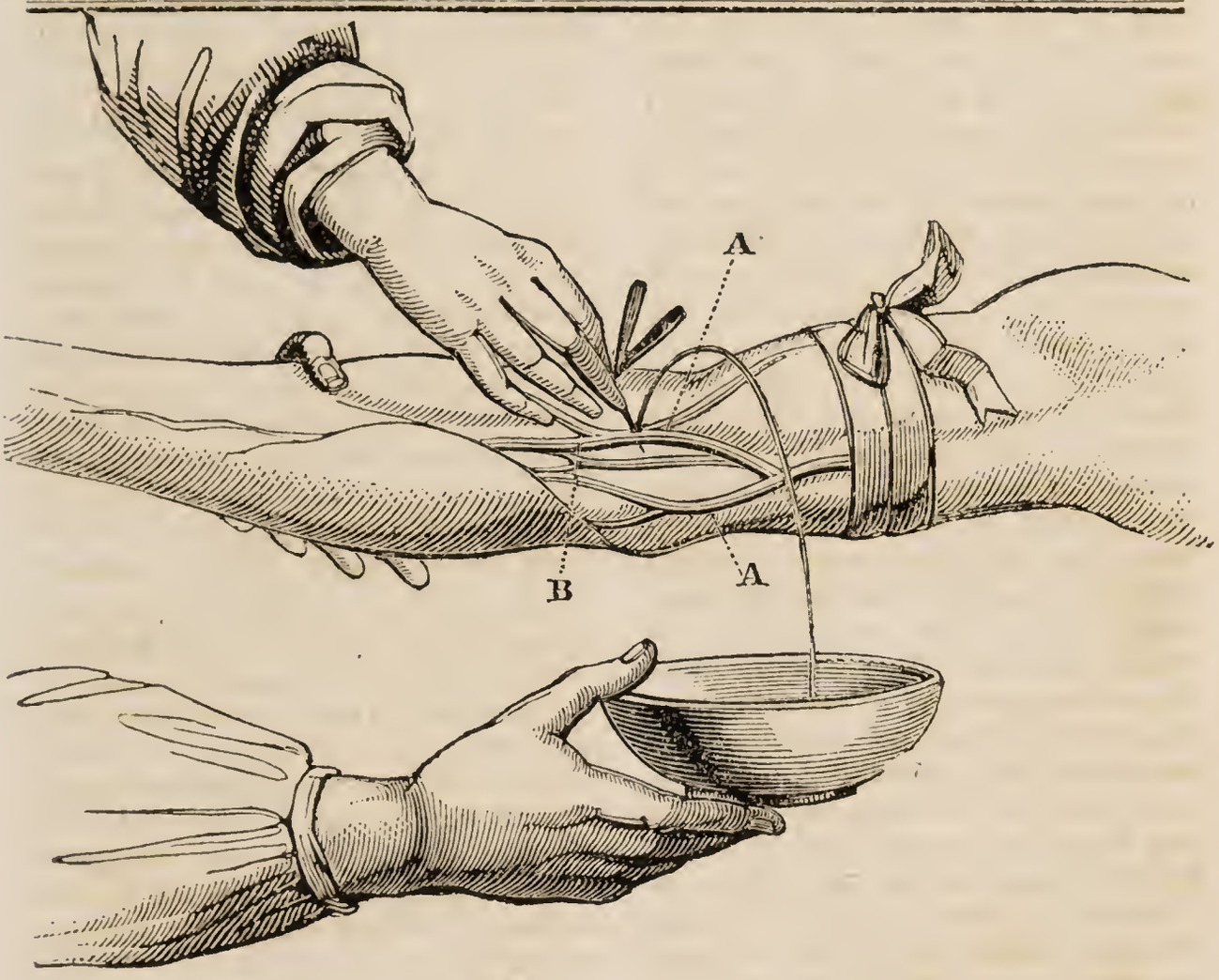
J. E. will find a letter directed to his initials, at the Office, Bristol.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's court, Fleet-street, London.

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AND
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DANGER FROM IGNORANT BLEEDERS.

THERE is scarcely a barber or bone-setter in the country that does not practise phlebotomy. The midwives of Scotland all bleed, and the English druggists in general will not refuse the operation in lack of something more lucrative. It is generally supposed that the operation is a very simple one, and if the mere puncturing of the vein be considered, without relation to any other contingency, it is certainly simple; but closely indeed lies death to the point of the lancet which is used by an ignorant bleeder, from the danger of his pushing the point into the artery that lies immediately under the vein.

The two great veins which run up into large branches from the smaller branches of the hand, are called baselic and cephalic veins. These, as they approach the bend of the arm, branch towards the centre, and join. It is generally under this juncture that the brachial or great artery of the arm lies, and so close to the vein, that the pulsation can be plainly felt by pressing the finger on the vein. If this position of the vessels now mentioned were invariable, the simple rule of never bleeding the middle vein would be sufficient to observe; but

the position, as well as the dividing of these vessels vary so often, that a more applicable caution is necessary: and when it is known that some of our regularly educated surgeons have been unfortunate enough to wound the artery in bleeding, the truth of what we state must be allowed. A case, of fatal effects, took place some years ago from wounding the artery, in which the operator was a member of a college that prides itself upon its superior anatomical knowledge, and its profundity of surgical science—a college which has rejected some *physicians* in examination for the appointment of assistant surgeon in the army,—as they said, because the learned M.D's. were not sufficiently acquainted with anatomy; yet a member of this college, who by their laws was obliged to study five years anatomy, &c. in that "simple" operation of bleeding, wounded the brachial artery: the consequence of which was, first, the operation of cutting down upon the artery and tying it; next, cutting off the patient's arm; and lastly, death!

Our general readers, perhaps, do not know that the wound of a considerable-sized artery is such, that it cannot in nine cases out of ten be stopped without cutting down upon it, and tying it, which is always attended with the risk of bleeding again, from the ligature being driven off by its pulsation, while a vein may be wounded with little or no danger; this arises from the artery possessing an elastic coat, which is not a quality of the veins. If the ligature is pushed off, and bleeding recurs, a portion of the artery above it must be tied. The ligature may again fall off, and so on until the patient sinks from hæmorrhage.

The precautions to be observed in bleeding are first and particularly, to feel upon each vein for the pulsation of the artery, and in whatever vein that is felt to avoid bleeding; the artery can be distinctly felt through the vein with a moderate degree of pressure. Next it will be necessary to introduce the lancet slowly, so that the length introduced may be fully judged; and lastly, the arm must be held firmly by the left hand of the operator, more particularly in cases where the patient is fearful, thus guarding against the involuntary movement which may take place in the arm: and although no artery lies under the vein on which the operation is performed, yet the wounding of the opposite side of the vein is often attended with most unpleasant consequences.

A skilful practitioner may bleed in the vein over the artery without much danger, when the vein is large; but even then we would recommend him to hold within his finger and thumb the shaft of the lancet, near the point, only allowing as much of the instrument to project as will be sufficient to introduce into the vein. Practitioners cannot be too cautious in this operation, for the total loss of professional reputation must follow the wounding of an artery.—A A the veins. B the great artery.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

"I HAVE dwelt thus particularly upon the subject of the biliary secretion, from a belief that its quantity and quality can, in general, be ascertained by inspection, and will therefore serve to indicate the presence of disorder. Whether the foregoing opinions be correct or not, it will, I think, be generally granted that the excretions from the bowels commonly indicate the healthy or disordered state of the digestive organs. By the state of the fæces we may judge how far digestion has been effected; and gelatinous mucose and other matters being mixed with them, denote irritation or disease of the bowels.

"The effects which medicine or diet may have upon the colour of the fæces, ought, however, to be considered. When the food is coloured, and this colour is not altered by digestion, it will, of course, appear in the fæces; hence if it should be thought desirable to know accurately the state of the biliary secretion, it would be right to restrict patients to a diet that is not likely to colour the fæces. The green colour of vegetables tinges the fæcal residue of the food. Steel also is known to blacken the fæces. It should also be remarked that the exposure of the fæces to air after their

expulsion, will, in some instances, cause a considerable alteration in their colour. In our endeavours, therefore, to ascertain whether the liver is performing its office rightly, by observing the colour of the fæces, attention should be paid to these circumstances.

"I conclude this review of the opinions entertained respecting chylification, by observing that if the succus intestinalis be an agent in this function, disorder of the intestines is likely to affect its secretion, and thus impede this second important part of the process of assimilation.

"The residue of the alimentary matter, mixed with the bile, passes from the small into the large intestines, and there undergoes a sudden change; it acquires a peculiar fœtor, and becomes what we denominate fæces. This change is so sudden, that it cannot be ascribed to spontaneous chemical alterations (which would be gradual) but to some new animal agency. If the contents of the small intestines at their termination, and of the large at their commencement, be examined, they will be found totally different.even within a line of each other; the former being without fœter, and the latter being in all respects what is denominated fæces. Though chemists then might speak of the feculent matters of chyle as fæces, yet physiologists would rather apply that term to the change in the residue of the food, which takes place in the large intestines, and which seems to be effected by the animal powers of those organs. The fæces quickly suffer chemical decomposition out of the body, although they often remain in the bowels without undergoing the same kind of change. Their chemical decomposition is attended with the sudden formation of ammonia; yet if they be examined when recent, they are found to contain acids which ammonia would neutralize. The inference, therefore, naturally arises, that this third process I mean the conversion of the residue of the aliment into fæces, may, amongst other purposes, be designed so to modify that residue, as to prevent it from undergoing those various chemical changes, which might be stimulating to the containing organs, as well as injurious to the general health.

"In a perfectly healthy state of the digestive organs, probably no chemical decomposition, even of the fæces, takes place; yet such changes happen, in some degree, without apparently producing any injurious consequences. To chemical changes we may probably attribute the extrication of inflammable air, and the various and unnatural odours of the fæcal matter, which are observable in disordered states of the digestive viscera.

"The means by which this modification of the residue of the food, which takes place in the large intestines, is effected, are but little known. Analogy leads us to refer it to the effects of a secretion from the lining of those intestines in which it occurs. Now if this secretion deviates from the healthy state in consequence of an irritated or disordered state of those organs, we may reasonably expect a corresponding derangement of the process, by which the residue of the food is converted into fæces.

Further Enquiry in the Nature and Effects of the Disorder of the Digestive Organs.

"HAVING taken this general view of the functions of the chylopoietic viscera, in order to facilitate the forming a judgment relative to those circumstances which indicate their derangement, I return to speak more fully of that affection of them. This subject, it must be acknowledged, is very important, if it can be shown that disorders of the digestive organs are the cause of a great number of other diseases. The enquiry would then not only lead us to discover the source of many disturbances of the constitution, which originate in those of the digestive organs (for patients have no suspicion of any disorder existing in them), but would also lead to the prevention and cure of many secondary diseases of a more vexatious and sometimes of a more fatal nature, than those from which they originated.

"If the tongue be furred at its back part in the morning, when there is no fever, it is reasonable to infer in general that the state of the tongue is owing to its participating in the

irritation of the stomach. Such participation produces an alteration in the secretions of the tongue; they are either deficient in quantity, or vitiated in quality. A state of irritation in any secreting surface is, indeed, likely to be attended with the same consequences. It is, therefore, fair to infer, that when a general disorder of the digestive organs takes place, those fluids, which produce the changes that the food undergoes in them, are deficient or depraved, and consequently that digestion and the subsequent processes must be imperfectly performed. The liver is likely to participate in the disorder, and the biliary secretion to be diminished or vitiated. This circumstance admits of ocular demonstration; and I have, therefore, considered it as an evidence of a more or less general disorder of the digestive organs. A very reasonable objection may, however, be made to considering the derangement of the functions of the liver as a criterion of those of the stomach and intestines; since the liver is independent of the latter organs, and may be the subject of a disorder confined to itself. In some cases, also, the alimentary canal may be affected, without disturbing the liver. Such circumstances may happen occasionally; but they are not ordinary occurrences, and should be considered as exceptions to general rules, which do not militate against their common operation. In general, affections of the former influence the functions of the latter; and the state of the biliary secretion affords a very useful evidence of a more or less general derangement of the chylopoietic viscera, and should excite our attention to investigate its kind and degree.

"I have stated, in describing the symptoms which denote disorder of the digestive organs, that the fæces are generally deficient in quantity. This circumstance may be accounted for in various ways. It may be ascribed to diminished or unhealthy secretion of bile, which does not precipitate the usual proportion of feculent matter from the chyle. Persons whose bowels are lax, and not inactive in carrying downwards the feculent matter, void it daily in deficient quantities. It may be supposed too, that either from the deficiency of bile, and consequent want of excitement, or from the effects of disorder, a torpid state of the bowels may exist, which causes them to carry downwards the feculent matter in small quantities. This circumstance may produce a greater absorption of the fæces than what is natural, or an accumulation of them in the colon.

"That the digestive organs in general were affected in the cases of local disease, which I am about to record, is most evident; but I am aware that many varieties of disorder may be included in the general description of the symptoms which I have given. Future observations may lead to further distinctions; but I see no impropriety at present in speaking of the disordered state as general; since it is probable that no material disorder can ordinarily take place in one of the digestive organs, without disturbing the functions of the others. When digestion is imperfectly performed, the functions of the intestinal canal will soon participate in the disorder of the stomach. Under these circumstances the secretion of bile will also probably become irregular. Should disease commence in the large intestines, as about the rectum, it disturbs the functions of the stomach, and secretion of the liver, and becomes augmented in its turn by its sympathy with these parts. Should the liver be disordered in the first instance, the stomach and bowels may not immmediately sympathize, although they will probably soon become affected.

"I feel further warranted in considering the symptoms, which have been recited in the former part of this paper, as arising from a general disturbance of the functions of the digestive organs, from contemplating the effects of blows on different parts of the belly, which do not seem to have injured the structure of any single abdominal viscus, but yet produce effects denoting a general disorder of these organs. The symptoms have varied in severity in proportion to the violence of the blow received. In the cases which were the consequence of the more forcible injuries the symptoms were, a furred

tongue; great vomiting, so that the stomach could retain no food; difficulty of affecting the bowels by medicine; great fever; and even delirium. Indeed, all those effects were produced which I have represented as arising from vehement local irritation of remote parts of the body. The disorder has generally terminated by a profuse discharge of black and fetid stools, after which the patient has perfectly recovered. On the contrary, where the symptoms consequent on the blow have been less violent, so as not to claim such strict attention, the disorder has continued.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Hydrocepalus, or Water on the Brain.

THE symptoms of this disease are constant and violent pain in the head, more particularly across the forehead—dilatation of the pupils of the eyes, with a redness of the eyes themselves—great aversion to the light—starting suddenly from sleep with screaming, vomiting, obstinate costiveness, convulsions, pulse at first quick, but becoming soon very slow,—and a constant drooping and drowsiness.

The disease is peculiar to children, and arises most commonly, in the weakly, or scrofulous and rickety. It seldom attacks after thirteen years of age. As a proof that water on the brain does not usually arise from any local cause, it is generally found hereditary; although sometimes a fall has been known to produce it.

In the early stages of hydrocephalus, the symptoms resemble those attending the diseases of worms, but as it advances it becomes fully marked—dilatation of one pupil or both—the drooping and rolling about of the head—the hectic flush upon the face—the paralytic affection of one side--muttering and delirium strongly mark the disease. Yet these symptoms have been found to attend worm cases; however, when no worms have appeared after the usual means of cure, it may be fairly fixed as hydrocephalus.

The disease has been divided into three stages; 1st. The inflammatory, having all the symptoms of what is called worm fever. The 2d stage is denoted by sudden starting from sleep, and screaming, torpor, dilated pupils, which will not contract at exposure to light, the pulse becomes slow, and the bowels will not act, except by strong purgatives. 3d stage is marked by a return of the febrile symptoms—the pulse quickens uncommonly, the eyes turn towards the nose, and sometimes the head swells from the accumulation of water.

Although the duration of this complaint varies often, yet the general extent is four or five weeks.

If a cure be not obtained in the first stage of this disease, but little hope remains; and as it is by the ablest physicians believed to begin with an inflammatory action in some part of the brain or membranes, bleeding—topical and general—blisters and purgatives must be actively employed. The child should lose a considerable quantity of blood, be well purged, and instead of two little blisters behind the ears, the head should be shaved, and a large blister applied to each side, or one upon the top of the head. This gives a powerful effect, and in many instances will cut short the disease. Should, however, the symptoms not abate, the blister must be repeated, but to the nape of the neck. Both the quantity of blood to be taken, and the size of the blisters, must be regulated by the age of the child; and as blisters occasionally produce pain in passing urine, attention must be paid to that point, and if it occurs, the child must drink of mucilagenous drinks, which will soon allay that affection—a little gum-arabic and water, boiled with a little sugar and lemon juice, will answer the purpose. If the disease, in spite of these active remedies, goes on, the cure must be attempted in another manner, and we think digitalis and calomel, are the best medicines to employ.

The following pills should be given in the dose of one every night, observing to keep the bowels free by purgatives.

Of Powder of digitalis, eight grains;
Calomel, twelve grains;

Conserve of roses, sufficient to make them into twelve pills.

An emetic should be also given every four days, as nothing serves to promote absorption more.

It is needless to observe upon the various modes proposed for the treatment of Water on the Brain, as they are principally speculative. The most useful part of our advice is this;—when the parents of a child find that such a disease is present, let them entrust none with the cure but a physician. Surgeons and apothecaries (although many able men are to be found amongst them) should, generally speaking, never be entrusted with the cure, except it is to follow the advice of a physician.

When all symptoms of hydrocephalus disappear, and leave behind debility, all means to restore health and strength must be had recourse to;—jellies, wine, asses' milk, and wholesome air.

ADVICE ON PREGNANCY.

Addressed to young married Women.

It is our intention in this article to give merely a few general rules which may be of service to young and inexperienced wives in that state, for which the female was intended by the Author of our existence. The symptoms of pregnancy are easy discoverable; a revolution in the female system so great, must be attended with strong indications. Some women suffer considerably more than others during pregnancy, arising from peculiarity of constitution. The most common symptoms are as follow: sickness at the stomach, and vomiting—which is more apt to come on in the morning, and after meals, than at any other time; tooth-ache, heart-burn, a peculiar change of countenance, occasional head-ache, fretfulness and peevishness, quickness of pulse, hurried breathing, antipathies and longings; the mammæ change from the natural colour to brown, and a cessation of the natural periodical affection takes place. These are the most usual symptoms; but they may not all be present at one time: the most frequent and almost never-failing symptoms, are sickness at the stomach, change of colour in the mammæ, and the cessation above alluded to.

In females who are advanced in life, these signs are often imagined or mistaken, and confounded with symptoms of other complaints; and as the two following cases will exemplify this clearly, we shall relate them.

Mrs. W——, the wife of an English merchant, at Bourdeaux, a woman beyond the heyday of life, took it into her head that her husband, now two years married, was within the revolution of a few moons, to be blessed with "a little image of himself." Mr. M. a surgeon, residing at Bourdeaux, was accordingly consulted, and although hinted his opinion delicately, and urged the necessity of the lady being circumspect, yet all would not do: she must have a son and heir, or at all events a daughter. The months rolled on, and with them the delightful visits of the surgeon, who was too much a member of the faculty, to dwell upon his doubts in such a case as this. The awful time was now within five short weeks, and a nurse was accordingly hired to live in the house, so that she might be ready on any emergency. The nurse, at the conclusion of the five weeks, or very near that period, went to the surgeon, and with a truly French shrug, expressed her doubts, although she was the bearer of a message from her, to desire that the surgeon would hold himself disengaged that night. The night came and passed, and so did the next, and the next, and the next: in short two months went anxiously by, and no more symptoms than before. The case became clear; the nurse was discharged; and the arrival of Napoleon from Elba, by putting all the English residents to the rout, prevented the mortification to the lady, which an explanation to the surgeon must have created.

The other case is that of a woman at Edinburgh, forty-three years of age, who felt many of the symptoms attending pregnancy, and grew gradually larger, but at twelve months after her supposed conception, was obliged to submit to the operation for dropsy.

In the first months of pregnancy, medical aid will be of little use; but

after the fourth month, unpleasant symptoms occasionally appear. Heartburn is one, and to relieve this, as well as prevent a recurrence of it, calcined magnesia should be taken every second day; unless in cases where relaxation of the bowels contra-indicate it. Should the latter symptom remain beyond a moderate time, the following draught may be taken:

Ten grains of prepared chalk,
Five grains of aromatic powder,
Mixed with two ounces of cinnamon water.

This may be repeated until the relaxation ceases.

If oppression of breathing be present with flushings of the face, or if a pain in the side or head affect women who are not weakly, letting a little blood from the arm will relieve. Should hysteric fainting appear, the woman must be exposed to a current of free air, and laid in an horizontal posture, which in general will be sufficient. For restlessness, four drops of the acetate of morphine, in half a glass of water, will relieve; this is a new medicine, but we are confidently assured that it is most effectual, and in this dose perfectly gentle.

Nausea and vomiting, although scarcely ever stopped, may be palliated. The patient should take tea or coffee before rising in the morning, which may for that time prevent it. Cramps are relieved by rubbing with the following liniment, and stockings should be worn in bed.

Camphoretted spirit, one ounce,
Tincture of opium,
Spirit of sulphuric ether, of each half an ounce. Mix them.

When symptoms of a more urgent nature occur during pregnancy, advice should be resorted to, and strictly observed.

As a general rule, we would recommend women in that state to live upon the most digestible food, and *attend particularly* to the state of the bowels; and with regard to *longings*, we think that as far as articles of food, the women ought to be indulged; but when their longings extend to such as certain fine dresses, &c. &c., the symptom, although not gratified, will *scarcely ever do them much injury.*

Exercise is of the greatest benefit during pregnancy, in cases when the woman is otherwise healthy; but in those of very weakly habit, or who have miscarried, exercise should be taken with the greatest caution.

That every suitable article of dress, &c. should be provided for the promised stranger, as far as is in the power of the parents, it is scarcely necessary to mention.

[As we are now treating upon that most important disease, indigestion, we insert the following letter. It is a complete picture of some of the worst effects of dyspepsia. It shows how much the nerves and imagination suffer by derangement of the digestive organs.—We have advised the writer, and hope to relieve him. Ed.]

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

YOUR courtesy, in answering and advising those who have made application (through the medium of your able and spirited periodical) induces me to hope you will extend it to me and my particular case. I have little hope the pharmacopœia will furnish a remedy, but have much faith in peculiar and skilful modes of treatment, from the minute attention paid by you to those particular disorders which are considered by the gentlemen of the faculty generally as beneath their particular study and investigation.

My narrative, I fear, will prove tiresomely minute, but I pray your patience to bear with me. I am also aware I may appear to you in some positions, in a very ludicrous light, and should the life sketch provoke your risibility, you are freely entitled to indulge it by the same token that even now, while I write I feel strongly affected by the same propensity. Lastly, I dread lest on a first view you should pronounce my case as trifling, contemptuous, and unimportant, but I conjure you, give it your most serious and enlightened consideration, as I do assure you there is not a gratification I at present enjoy, I would willingly forego to be rid of so formidable a foe to my peace and welfare—and now after this long preliminary, to the point.—About five

years since, I suffered under a dreadfully complicated nervous disease, affecting my health and spirits to that degree, my life became beyond conception wretched, and did I now suffer what I well remember to have endured, I should wish the speedy approach of death as the happy release, and yet it was this very fear of death, that sleeping or waking, that haunted and disordered my imagination, and caused all my misery. Various were the forms in which I saw and felt, (or fancied I saw and felt,) his dire approach and appalling grasp: how often have I thought myself infected, with the then prevalent, typhus fever; that I really suffered inflammation or fever at the time, there is little doubt it was from the disorder of my digestive organs. I have often been eight or nine days without being relieved by nature—five or six the general term. I at one time fancied a something growing in my throat, which so impeded my breath and swallow, that I was continually drinking to prevent strangulation: I am also inclined to think this was not wholly fancy, as I still occasionally feel a trifling inconvenience in the same place when attacked by a cold, and a defectiveness in my power of swallow, as I sometimes gulp to no effect, at other times my food ascends and finds a passage through my nostrils.—From being wild and thoughtless, I became serious, and attended churches and chapels. Here I found little solace, but on the contrary it has often rendered me doubly miserable by the various denunciations held forth against the ungodly, and in this point my conscience never failed to criminate me. I remember once to have heard the parable of the ten virgins commented on in the peculiar gloomy and impressive manner of most of the ministers of the dissenting churches, which so worked upon my deranged nerves, that I rushed out of the chapel, and hastening home, remained the whole of the day without speaking, eating, or drinking, in the most pitiable state of remorse and misery, expecting the "Bridegroom would come and find my lamp untrimmed."

For a length of time I existed in this lamentable condition, my employment not engaging my mind sufficiently to divert my thoughts from this melancholy channel—the pot-house yielded me little relaxation; even the theatre, hitherto my particular enjoyment, could scarce beguile me of one weary hour,—I stood an isolated being, and seemed to feel that the only thing which could tend to restore me, would be the solace of a friend, to whom I might confide my miseries, and who would condole with me under my weight of ideal (or real) misfortunes, but, alas!

"I among all the myriads of my kind
Had ne'er met one congenial mind."

But to me the most annoying component of this dreadful disease, was a rush of blood to the face on the most trivial occasions, which was always succeeded by a deadly paleness, and tremulous exhaustion. I was returning home one Sunday evening, and I suppose as usual ruminating on some sombre subject, when I unwittingly stalked into a wrong house, and did not perceive my mistake till I held the parlour door in my hand, when my eye catching some of the furniture, immediately apprised me of my error. I shall never forget the overwhelming flood that imbued my face, the large drops of perspiration that rolled off my forehead, with the accompanying trembling and faintness. At this moment a feather would have been as effective as a fist, in felling me to the earth. Ere had reached my own apartment, the glow was succeeded as usual by a livid chilly paleness, affecting my lips equally with my cheeks, and in short my whole frame, so that my friends present really thought me dying. This was but one of the many and most violent attacks. There was scarce half an hour passed in the day without this crimson flood suffusing my cheeks, which was not only attended with the mortification of having appeared ridiculous, but was always attended with a swimming and giddiness in the head, which for the time quite overthrew my powers of thought or action, and it is for the cure of this latter disturber of my peace, (which I thank God is the only

remaining branch of the disorder,* though certainly my digestive organs are somewhat remiss occasionally in performing their required offices,) that I pray your prescription and advice. It is not only the ridicule I endure, which I certainly seem to deserve, though I have not the power of remedying it; I can scarce be asked my opinion on the simplest subject, but my answer must be heralded and confused by this crimson demon, and is a continual drawback to my advance in life. I once held a desirable and cheerful situation in a warehouse in town, where many more were employed. It happened goods were stole frequently, no one knew how. When my employer was narrating to me his losses in this way, and deploring that he had some dishonest persons about him, and though his speech was no way pointed; in short I knew he entertained a high opinion of me, yet I colored a deeper red than was ever daubed on the countenance of that outre of lions a red one, nor could I ever after speak to him on any subject without being so subjected. While I remained after this, I felt myself miserable, which was not long. The purloiners of the property were afterwards detected, and tried at the Old Bailey, and the whole of the lost property traced to them. This with every other particular here narrated are facts, I pledge you my veracity, and were I to narrate but the one half the ocurrences similar that have befallen me, I might fill a folio volume, a part of which might excite your laughter, but more your sympathy. Were it the ingenuous glow of youthful diffidence—the deeper tinge of conscious criminality, or the acutely refined angelic blush, "celestial rosy red."—Were it the first, I might hope with years it would wear off—for the second, the remedy is obvious—and for the last, who would exchange it for a monarch's diadem?—but for this violent and enervating gush of blood, this crimson and frightful suffusion! to speak in Abernethy's language, "'tis horrid, horrid, most horrible!" I am,

Sir, yours, respectfully,

C.

—

P. S. Prescribe any thing, but that to me unattainable, though valuable commodity—confidence!

* I attribute my almost miraculous cure to an ardent attachment formed about this time, which engrossed the whole of my thoughts, a

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

A key applied to the back of the neck, to stop bleeding at the nose.

THIS operates upon the olfactory nerves by sympathy, and contracts the mouths of the blood-vessels.

—

Sprinkling the face and breast with cold water, to restore fainting.

THIS acts by stimulating the system: it extracts suddenly a quantity of caloric from the surface, which contracts the pores. This action ceasing, causes another change. If, however, no good effect be produced by the first or second application, it should be discontinued, and the patient wiped dry.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A good Laxative Powder.

Ten grains of jalap,
Twenty grains of cream of tartar,
Fifteen grains of ginger. —Mix.

—

An active Purging Powder.

Of jalap, fifteen grains,
Of rhubarb, ten grains,
Of calomel, two grains.—Mix.

RHUBARB, ITS QUALITIES, &c.

THREE varieties of rhubarb are known in the shops, named from the places whence we receive them. Russian rhubarb, Turkey rhubarb, and East Indian or Chinese rhubarb; the two first resemble each other in every respect, appearing to be the root of the same species of plant, prepared in the same mode; and, although the East Indian is seemingly the root of a different species, yet we are informed by Mr. Behmen, that it is the same, only prepared with less care.

All the rhubarb of commerce, known under the names of Turkey or Russian, grows on the declivities of the chain of mountains in Tartary, which stretches from the Chinese town Sini, to the lake Kokonor, near Thibet. The soil is light and sandy,

and the Bucharians assert that the best grows in the shade on the southern side of the mountains. Rhubarb, however, is also cultivated in China, in the province of Shensee, where it is called Haihoung. In Tartary, the roots are taken up twice a year, in Spring and in Autumn, and after being cleansed and dicorticated, and the small branches cut off, the body of the root is divided transversely, into pieces of a moderate size, which are placed on tables, and turned three or four times a day during five or six days. A hole is then bored through each piece, by which it is hung up to dry, exposed to the air and wind, but sheltered from the sun. In about two months, the roots have lost seven parts in eight of their weight, and are fit for market. In China, the roots are not dug up till winter, and the cultivators, after cleaning, scraping off the bark, and cutting them, dry the slices by frequently turning them on stone slabs heated by a fire underneath, after which the drying is completed by hanging them up in the air, exposed to the greatest heat of the sun.* As soon as the rhubarb has been dried where it is grown, it is conveyed to Si-ning, where it is again cleansed and aired, and after being cut into smaller pieces and sorted, a large hole is drilled through that intended for the Russian market, in virtue of the contract made with the Russian government, for the examination of the heart of the pieces. It is then packed up in camel's-hair sacks, and conveyed to Mac-ma-tchin, where it is examined previously to its being transported to Kiactita. The whole of the trade in rhubarb in China is carried on by one Bucharian family, which has enjoyed the monopoly since 1772, and it is even by the agents of this family that it is sold to the English at Canton. This Bucharian family resides at Si-ning Fu, a town on the frontiers of Thibet, about 3000 versts from Kiactita, the town on the Russian frontier where the rhubarb is purchased on the account of the Russian government. Part of the Tartarian rhubarb is carried to Turkey through Natolia, but the greater part is conveyed by the Bucharians to Kiactita, where it is examined by a Russian apothecary. The best pieces only are selected and sent to Petersburgh. It is in roundish pieces, perforated with a large hole of a yellow reddish colour, on the outside somewhat soft and pliable, and when broken, exhibiting many diverging streaks of a beautiful bright red colour. Agreeably to the contract with Russia, all the rhubarb which is rejected must be burnt, and even that which is approved, undergoes another cleansing before it is finally packed up for St. Petersburgh. The Chinese rhubarb, at least what we receive under that appellation, is conveyed to Canton, and then purchased by the East India Company's agents, who purchase all qualities, whence it is brought to this country by sea; it is in oblong, sometimes flat pieces, seldom perforated, considerably heavier, more compact, and less pliable than the former kind, of a brownish yellow colour on the outside, and when broken the fracture is hackly, appears of a dull colour, and variegated with yellow, pink, and white. Both kinds are brought to this country in cases and chests.

Good Russian or Turkey rhubarb has a peculiar, somewhat aromatic odour, and a bitter slightly astringent sub-acid taste, feels gritty between the teeth when chewed, and tinges the saliva of a bright yellow colour; it should not be porous, but rather compact and heavy. Water at 212° takes up twenty-four parts in sixty; the infusion is of a brown colour, nearly clear, and reddens litmus paper. Alcohol extracts two-sevenths from ten parts, and gives a tincture of a rich golden colour, which reddens tincture of litmus, is not altered in its transpareney by the addition of water, and strikes a blackish olive hue, with solutions of sulphate of

* It is in the process of drying the roots, that the British rhubarb cultivators are supposed to fail. Baume proposes to steep the roots in water, to deprive them of their gummy matter, before drying them, then to lay them upon twigs in the open air for twelve hours, and lastly, to place them in a stove heated to 120°, till they are dried. When sufficiently dry, the wrinkles must be rasped out, and the pieces shaken together in a barrel turned on an axis, for half an hour, which covers them with a fine yellow powder, formed by their attrition.

ron, but no immediate precipitate falls. Sulphuric ether takes up one-fifth in ten parts of this rhubarb, the tincture is of a golden yellow hue, and when evaporated in water, leaves a thin pellicle of yellow resin, and abundance of extractive dissolved in the water, combined, however, with tannin. East Indian, or Chinese rhubarb, has a stronger odour, and is more nauseous to the taste than Turkey, breaks with a more compact and smoother fracture, and affords a powder of a redder shade. Water takes up thirty parts in sixty, the infusion is not so deep-coloured as that of Russian rhubarb, is never turbid, and reddens also litmus-paper. Alcohol extracts four parts in ten, the tincture is of a much deeper colour, and brownish, gives a deeper red to litmus tincture, is rendered slightly turbid by the addition of water, and strikes a green, not blackish olive with sulphate of iron, which it also quickly and copiously precipitates. Ether takes up two parts in ten, the tincture is deeper coloured, and when evaporated on water, affords the same results as the former kind, except that the compound of tannin and extractive is more soluble.

The infusion of Chinese rhubarb is more copiously precipitated by solution of isinglass than that of the Russian. Infusion of yellow Cinchona bark throws down a copious greenish precipitate from infusion of Russian rhubarb, and a less copious, but more dense bright yellow precipitates from that of Chinese rhubarb.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

NEVER was the discussion of a subject more calculated to benefit mankind than your *just exposition* of the villanies of quacks; indeed such *already* are its effects, that I cannot resist expressing my joy at the *ruinous plight* which the unmasking of the hideous brood has brought them into; and I heartily join your numerous readers in congratulating you, upon your work proving the happy instrument of rescuing hundreds who, no doubt, would have irrecoverably sunk under their vile artifice, had not your warning hand been so successfully extended in their behalf. I have now to shew up a fellow, whose rascally pretensions will be at once seen in the within hand-bill; regretting, however, that the introduction has not fallen into abler hands, but in leaving him in yours, affords me the pleasing consolation of knowing that he will be dealt with according to his deserts. I fell in with the humbug only a few days ago, in the shop of a very respectable and intelligent tradesman, on whom he called under the pretext of restoring something belonging to the trade, which he had found, and upon quitting, he begged to be allowed to leave an *explanatory* card of his calling, not forgetting to add how successfully he had practised, (picking pockets no doubt) and how grateful he should feel for the recommendation of cases. This appeal happened unfortunately to touch a very sore place; for the utter abhorrence of my friend towards quacks, led him now to cry out more bitterly against the fraternity,—when fearing that high words from one might lead to low abuse from the other, I took the liberty of interceding, hoping thereby to be enabled to send "the grits to your mill." I asked him then, since he had remedies for all "the ills which flesh is heir to," to *name* some instances wherein the never-failing virtues of his soup (vegetable, for it is all avowed to be made of carrots, leeks, and cabbage-water,) had been more particularly displayed. When with all that blustering impudence and ignorance, so peculiar to the set, he declared, pulling out bottle after bottle, as how he had with this *here* cured Lord nobody knows, *Cook*, of so and so square, of such a bad *throat*, that he could not swallow his *spit*. How he had with this *here* restored Mrs. What's-her-name, at such a place, who had been left dead by her *phisioners* with only three half-pints of it; and how he had afterwards, in half a day, with only nine spoons full an hour, cured her favourite *black* servant of the *yelley jandis*—how he had been praised for curing two maiden ladies in Wincent-street, Vestminster, of *sore brestises*, when Hastley Cowper couldn't do nothing—how he had cured Mrs. Thingamy's *rhumatis* all

from her *lines* to her *hoof*—how he had restored thousands of hopeless and incurable sore heels, fevers, scald heads, gravel disorder, fits, bad eyes, itch, &c. &c. Such are surely then fit objects to be held up for the execration of the world—practices so mischievous, so replete with danger, that "it well merits the finger of caution to continually point at," that all who are on the road of affliction may shun the delusive path. What dreadful—what ruinous consequences have not the pursuit of them led to—how many are there to whose *temporary* sufferings have been added *irremoveable* torture and misery—means which have led to all earthly woe, and, in innumerable cases, to death itself. How many victims are there now pale and exhausted, with constitutions enfeebled—with weariness of soul—wounded in spirit—heart-broken and wretched, living only under the reproaches of their own conscience, for having suffered themselves to be so gulled, and in their hopeless state vainly cursing *these* instigators of their *irreparable* condition? —what dreadful evils are these, and how *lamentable* that there exists no law to put down such impositions. The common pick-pocket rarely escapes punishment—*swindlers* of every other denomination meet their fate, as does the *murderer* the halter: but here are a set of *thieves* and *wholesale destroyers*, carrying on their malpractices with impunity. The public, I say, ought to be equally protected against this, as any other description of swindling, and I most anxiously trust it will ere long claim the attention of some member of the Commons House, as a fit subject to be taken up for legislatorial interference; a measure, the success of which would procure him not only the thanks of the community, but the enviable satisfaction of knowing he has been the means of obtaining the removal of one of the greatest grievances, which they have been so long subject to. May this be realized, and may you till then continue "To lash the rascals naked through the world," is the sincere wish of, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,
G. W.

"HENRY TICKEN, No. 13, Three Colt Court, Worship-street, Finsbury-square, undertakes to cure the rheumatism, gout, scurvy, and fevers, of every description: bilious and other complaints in the stomach are often removed in a few minutes: agues, gravel, stone, chilblains, burns, scalds, inflammations of the eyes, head-ache, worms, and children's complaints; likewise fits cured.

"Many well authenticated cases of cures actually performed in the neighbourhood, will be pointed out to enquirers. These medicines are recommended to captains of ships, as a remedy against disorders to which they are exposed from different climates. Persons in villages may do much good to poor neighbours, and arrest the progress of serious disorders.

"The medicines in bottles at 1s. 6d. salve, 3s. per oz. and electuary to cure the piles, asthmatic coughs and consumptions, 6d. per oz."

[We readily comply with a part of the request of the writer of the following letter by giving publicity to it, but honest Jabez must excuse us if we cannot conform to the full extent of his wishes, we owe it as a duty to the public, and we pledge ourselves we will not cease to expose quackery whilst one impudent and ignorant pretender remains unmasked, or a dupe to be gulled.] Ed.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

MR. EDITOR,

I HAVE lately found my avocation fall off considerably, my reverend superior and the clerk also remark a corresponding reduction in their fees, thus, (although perhaps undesignedly,) you are an enemy to the church, by lessening the revenue of its officers; nor is this all, there is poor Screw-well the undertaker, of *Bury* court, told me the other day, he must call his creditors together; and *Hands* the glover of Leather Lane, says mourning gloves have fallen ten per cent; now, it is you that have caused, and are causing all this mischief, by exposing the people you are pleased to call quacks, week after week in your publication: now, Sir, live and let live, that is my motto. Doctors must live, quacks must live, undertakers must live, and sextons

must live; but if you must be holding up to exposure and ridicule the description of persons I allude to, the consequence is, and will be, people wont buy their physic, therefore they wont die so soon, and therefore I dont get my fee so soon; and as I said before, not only I, but all who gain their living by death, are sufferers. I have just received a long letter from a brother of mine who is of the same profession as myself, at Bury St. Edmunds, complaining of the effects of your paper in that part, and he says all the bilious pill people in the country are vowing vengeance against you. As for myself, I am a quiet man, and would rather carry my point by expostulation than coercive measures, but "tread upon a worm and it will turn," and I do hope you will seriously consider of the evil you are doing. I have been more indebted to Drs. Cameron, Eady, Jordan, Goss and Co., and the tribe of quack pill people for funerals of their patients dying in early and middle age, than to any other description of persons or circumstances whatever:—now I know it may be said that in the long run I shall lose nothing, because as *pious* Dr. Gardiner, the *worm-bottler*, of Long Acre, says in his bills, "all men must die," yet I have no notion of waiting long for "dead men's shoes," the present shilling may be worth more than the distant pound, especially as I am not a young man, death may step in and intercept my fee, transferring my customers to another hand. For these reasons, I hope you will see it right to comply with my request, to do me and others justice, by discontinuing what you call "Annals of Quackery," but what I call "attempts to ruin sextons, undertakers and all persons who get their bread by black jobs." You are like the boy in the fable throwing stones at the frogs "its sport to you, but death to us." So I remain, your very humble, though suffering servant,

Sexton of St. Paul's Covent Garden. } JABEZ DIGGORY.

No. 61, Church Passage, Covent Garden, March 1, 1824.

Acetate of Morphine.

THIS newly discovered drug, with which Castaing, the Frenchman, destroyed his friends, is one of the greatest acquisitions that the profession can boast of. It is in fact opium divested of its evil qualities. It has long been a matter of regret with us to reflect, that in cases which required a sedative, we were obliged to reject opium, because in addition to the sedative properties of that medicine, it possesses a narcotic or stimulating power; and this power in many cases is poison in the disease, where the sedative property is perhaps a specific cure. The acetate of morphine now furnishes us with the desideratum. We have given the fullest trial of it, and are decidedly of opinion that it should be substituted for solid opium or laudanum in all cases, except where it is the intention to constipate. The medicine is not to be had generally in the shops, but may be procured at some of the manufacturing druggists. The dose is from three drops to ten, and it should always be given in its smallest dose first, gradually increasing it. In lock-jaw we think it would be invaluable.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

Messrs. Goss and Co. the "Ægis" authors, are respectfully informed, that in consequence of the promised communication of one of their victims, they cannot be handed up this week. We regret that we are thus obliged to delay giving them their proper place in our columns, but next Saturday, to a certainty, they *shall have it*.

Their "Ægis of Life," which has been sent to us for our opinions we are sorry to inform them will not do to quote from—it is too dirty. We have transferred it to the Society for the Suppression of Vice, as the best place to have it reviewed.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

SIR,

OBSERVING with infinite gratification the zeal with which you pursue the exposure of that infernal class of society (the quacks), whose intolerable impudence (the want of ability and honesty) enables them to impose upon the unweary I am led to solicit a page in that work which is within the reach of all classes of the community, and which, ere long, will have opened the eyes of thousands, who, with one voice,

will pronounce its value infinite indeed!!

Although established quacks (those having permanent places of residence) are so injurious to the community, there are others who are continually pushing forward, and remaining in each town, until their glaring impositions become so notorious that they are obliged to make their exit to a new scene of imposition. Those, I say, are equally baleful and detestable! Feeling convinced, that through your exertions this description can be eradicated, I proceed to hold up "Dr. Manasse." As he has assumed other names, a brief description may be requisite. —A German—speaks English imperfectly, and that so much through his nostrils, that it is with difficulty he is understood: is rather deaf, or appears to be so, probably the more effectually to disguise his ignorance: stands about 5 feet 10 inches high—age about 53: wears powder, and dresses rather shabby-genteel; and, with his fullest energy of tone, invariably on his first interview, declares himself a French physician. After this description, I shall proceed to give a detail of his practical impositions. At Wisbeach, in Cambridgeshire, some little time since, in order to establish his fame as soon as he arrived, he bribed a village plebeian, whose eyes were affected, to feign total blindness. This individual was led to the inn at which this fellow had taken up his quarters, when enquiry was made for the French doctor. After hearing what was wanted, he requested the patient to be led into the room, where he was questioned in the presence of a numerous host of the sons of Bacchus, who of course sympathized with his privation of sight. The doctor and patient adjourned to another room alone, when, after having applied to his lips the doctor's glass, and killed one half hour, they returned to the company, displaying to them the most astonishing skill of this stranger, the foreign impostor, who had so quickly restored the blind man to the enjoyment of sight!!!!

This miraculous cure of course established his fame with the credulous, although through the medium of the Stamford newspaper, he was described as a rascal, who had imposed upon the inhabitants of Lincolnshire, not only with regard to deception in the cure of diseases, but in having been generous enough to leave his bills for lodging, &c. unpaid!! His patients became numerous, and his hours of attendance limited, in consequence of which his servant had to introduce them to his worthy's presence in rotation; yet not until this servant could hear such patient's description of complaint, when he would fly to relate the ailings of the one next to come, when the doctor could most surprisingly declare their sensations, and thereby establish their faith and become his dupes!

Again, he would declare to many, that if he judged right, their faeces would be quite black, at least, if the disorder was at all serious his pills would so decide. Those pills were composed of ext. gent. and "lamp black." At length, he quitted Wisbeach, yet not until he had drawn from the pockets of many a good round sum; and, serious to relate, a fit of jealousy attacked his lady, in consequence of his great attention to a patient, whose husband, some time previous, had been sent off to Botany Bay for seven years. During this fit she unfortunately threw at his cranium a leg of mutton, the tête-à-tête about which was too much for this man of finer feelings to endure; as such, he bade farewell to the compounders of lamp black pills without satisfying their demands, and steered his course to Lynn, in Norfolk, where he again played off the game of pocketing all and paying no more than compelled.

My exit from that part of the country where the game by him was so well managed, to this, far distant, has prevented my following him further; but by your publicity of this, he may be overtaken and defeated, which will rid this enlightened country of one foreign rascal.

Your constant Reader,
C. G. T. B.

Guildford, Feb. 22.

CAUTION.

Disease caught from Horses.

In a former number we observed that a disease, called the *horses' itch*, was said to exist amongst the people employed in the slaughtering of horses. We have since visited the establishment of Mr. Monk, of White Chapel Road, for the purpose of ascertaining the fact, and we found the report to be correct. Two men employed in the yard for slaughtering horses, named Robert Barnet, and Francis Sherbit, have had the disease sixteen or eighteen times. They are perfectly familiar with it, and whenever a horse affected with mange is brought into the yard they prepare for an attack, or keep as much from contact with the diseased animal as possible. The disease appears in a few hours after contact with the skin of the horse, and is unlike the common itch in these points, namely, it will not yield to the usual remedies, and it does not appear between the fingers, but on the arms, body, and legs. A whole family has been lately affected with it, and the medical attendant found it necessary to put them under a course of mercury; the propriety of which, by the bye, we doubt very much; and they caught the disease from the children about the yard.

We are also credibly informed, that a coachman lost his arm in St. Bartholomew's hospital, from a disease communicated to him by a horse affected with *farcey;* and the brother of Mr. Monk is said to have died from inhaling the breath of a glandered horse. He had been standing before, and close to the animal, in Smithfield, when he breathed in his face. Mr. Monk instantly exclaimed that he had swallowed the putrid air, and said he should never get the better of it. He returned home, and died in a few days, declaring to the last, that the glandered horse was the cause of his death.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

The Literary Gazette accuses us of intemperance in our attacks upon the tread-mill. We certainly have spoken warmly upon that subject, when we found *two mothers giving suck*, working at the inquisitionary machine, their babies held by others, and crying for the arms of the parent. Our hearts are human; and who can contemplate such barbarity and not burn with indignation? Warmth of expression may be thought intemperate, in proportion to the view which the critic may take of the tread-mill, and we have no doubt, that on cool consideration, the Literary Gazette will scarcely call us *intemperate*. It says, "The Medical Adviser appears to us to be rather intemperate upon some questions; on the tread-mill for instance, it writes as violently from the testimony of malefactors suffering and hating the punishment, as if their evidence was of the purest kind. This is not very reasonable in the way of argument, and assuredly affords insufficient grounds for personally vituperating men who think differently from the writers as to the utility of this discipline. Raising a clamour is about as bad as puffing a quackery. In exposing the latter, and pointing out to the unmeasured reprobation the race of infamous impostors who fatten on public credulity, and murder the unhappy patients seduced to trust to them by their impudent pretences, this little work is doing excellent service to the community, and deserves encouragement were it for that feature alone." We must deny totally that we argue from the evidence of felons. Those cases of sick criminals is taken from Mr. Briscoe's book, and *are not argued upon*. In no case have we taken such evidence to ground our arguments, except backed by more credible witnesses. Yet there is a spirit of truth in those cases of Mr. Briscoe, which will strike any medical man at once.

Mills, the woman who miscarried in Cold Bath Fields Prison, is said to be recovered. An attempt has been made to contradict our statement. "The British Traveller" publishes a letter from her, in which she says, that she got tea *when she asked for it*, but does not say whether that tea came from the surgeon and by his orders, or from her fellow-prisoners. With regard to that part of our statement representing her to have mis-

carried, on the wheel, she says she did not miscarry *until she retired to her cell*, and she admits that she *was locked up in that deplorable agony all night, without a being to assist her.* It is quite the same thing whether she miscarried *on* the wheel, or two hours after she worked at it,—of the two, the former would have been better for her, for then she would not have been alone all night.—What a night for a girl of eighteen, with her first birth!—We distinctly state that the work of the wheel caused the accident. Since her case occurred, another woman has miscarried at Cold Bath Fields, and although not working at the wheel, it is an additional reason to shew that the sex so liable to such casualties, should be exempted from the punishment of the tread mill. The *Examiner*, too, we are sorry to say, blames us for our statement, for we first made it. As we are fully convinced of the injury which such a paper must do by seeming to support the tread-mill, we regret that it has taken such a view of our remark. What will the Editor say, when he sees in our columns nine cases crippled at the tread-mill, yet kept a secret, which no doubt the miscarriage would have been, had we not noticed it. This information may perhaps also be called a "falsehood." It certainly carries less truth about it to say, that the tread-mill *did not* cause the miscarriage. There is no use in cavilling about two hours—the woman miscarried in less than that time after she worked at the mill—she got no tea from the surgeon, and that is enough to bear us out.

We are favoured with the copy of a pamphlet, to be published next Monday, upon Prison Labour, by a Student of the Inner Temple. We can, at present, only observe, that the information it contains, and the entire new light which it throws upon the infamous effects of the tread-mill, will startle every body who reads it.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. H. will find that by adding two or three drachms of the tincture of cardimom to the tincture of senna and rhubarb, it will prevent the griping effects; a few grains of ginger will also do it. He should use wine when he feels the sensation of fear.

Let W. C. work the parts with a lotion of a scruple of white vitriol, to half a pint of water. He should attend a surgeon once a week.

GULIELMUS.—"*Drying of the blood,*" *is nonsense; the powder is wholesome.*

B. P.—Scrofula will be shortly treated upon.

A. Z. should use sulphur and treacle at night occasionally, and keep from irregularities.

A. B. is doing very well at present, but if in a week he finds no benefit from the surgeon's advice, and treatment, we then shall be happy to prescribe.

L. K.'s view of the case is just and humane. At proper times we shall consider his opinions.

ANTI-QUACK *need not fear apoplexy, let him try a full bleeding in the arm, and inform us what effects it produces; we may then give him useful advice.*

J. Lapis should put a small blister behind each ear, and keep his ears covered.—Let him then tell us the effects.

Let W. D. drink a glass of warm porter with sugar every day at eleven o'clock, and keep his bowels regular.

J. W. C.'s case should be minutely detailed and sent to us with an address where to send a reply.

J. Foley will find a letter at our publishers.

H. N. shall have an answer at the post-office, Manchester.

S. S. is perfectly of our opinion: promises have been given for the attention.

Communications received at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE
MEDICAL ADVISER,
AND
GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.
EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 15.] SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



THE ARTERIES OE THE ARMS.

In our plate of this week we give a representation of the beautiful ramifications of the arteries upon the back of the arm. The fat, and cellular substances are clearly dissected away, and nothing but the muscles and arteries appear. At the elbow and at the wrist may be seen the anastomosing or mingling of the small branches coming off from different trunks, and thus the reader may form a clear idea of how the arm may be nourished when an accident or disease renders it necessary to tie either of the great trunks. In this process the blood meeting with obstruction in its accustomed course by the ligature upon the vessel, finds its exit through the others by a more circuitous route, and those arteries through which nourishment is to be conveyed to the arm, feeling as it were an increased quantity of blood, gradually enlarge, so as, in a short time, to become sufficient for their new office.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

Persons who had been previously in perfect health, have become hypochondriacal, and have had all those symptoms of disorder of the digestive organs, which have been already enumerated as arising from a less degree of local irritation, with such consequent diseases as originate from such disorder, and which will be mentioned in the subsequent part of this paper.

"In order to enquire more particularly into the nature of this disorder of the digestive organs, I have examined the bodies of a considerable number of persons who have died of diseased joints, lombar abscesses, and other great local diseases. I knew that these patients had their digestive organs disordered in the manner that I have described, and that in many of them the secretion of bile had been suppressed for a great length of time, and, when it was renewed, that it was very deficient in quantity, and faulty in quality: yet, on dissection, no alteration was discovered in the structure of the chylopoietic viscera, which could be decidedly pronounced to be the effect of disease. It naturally excites surprise, that such a state of irritation, and imperfect performance of the natural functions of these parts, should exist for so long a time, as in many cases it is known to do, without producing organic disease: still I believe it may be set down as a truth, (which has been verified by every observation I have made,) that a state of irritation leads to those diseased vascular actions, which produce an alteration of structure in the irritated parts.

"However, where the disordered state of the bowels had been of longer duration, I have found the villous coat of the intestines swollen, pulpy, turgid with blood, and apparently inflamed, and sometimes ulcerated; and these appearances have been most manifest in the large intestines. Having observed repeatedly in dissections of these cases, that the large intestines were more diseased than the small ones, it occurred to me, that the fact might be accounted for in the following manner: If digestion is incomplete, the undigested food must be liable to chemical changes, and the products resulting from this cause, are likely to be most stimulating to the large intestines. Indeed, in advanced stages of this disorder, mucus and jelly tinged with blood are discharged, and it seems probable that a kind of chronic dysentery may be thus induced.

"In some instances, where the disorder had existed for many years, the bowels have been diseased throughout their substance; the internal coat being ulcerated, and the peritoneal covering inflamed, so that the convolutions of the intestines were agglutinated to each other. In these cases the liver, and sometimes the spleen also, were much diseased, being tuberculated in every part. Such is the information which I have obtained by dissection.

"Accurate attention to the subject, especially in medical cases, may lead to important sub-divisions, which I have not been able to make. But when I find that irritation of the nervous system, however it may originate, deranges the chylopoietic organs,

and affects the stomach, bowels, and liver, apparently at the same time, I think it fair to infer, that these organs are equally operated on by the same cause. Disorders of the brain may affect the chylopoietic organs; and it is well known that this influence is reciprocal. The stomach is said to be chiefly concerned in producing these effects; but the causes of the sympathetic affection are probably more general. A fit of passion has produced jaundice; and the irritation of teething in children frequently suspends the secretion of bile; so that the stools are not in the least degree tinged with that fluid. If the head can thus affect the liver, it is reasonable to infer that the liver may reciprocally affect the head. It is very difficult to form an opinion relative to this subject; for, in the instances which have been mentioned, the affection of the liver may take place, only because it forms a part of the digestive organs, and not from a direct sympathy existing between it and the head. Still, however, I do not think it unreasonable to conclude that irritation of the other chylopoietic organs may, as well as that of the stomach, disorder the source of sensation.

"To display how much hepatic irritation may affect the sensorium, and consequently the whole nervous system, I insert the following case:

"A gentleman applied to me with a thickened and tender state of the periosteum of his tibia. This disease had troubled him for more than a year, but became at last so extremely painful, that he declared he had not slept for three months, and that his life was so intolerable that he resolved to undergo a course of mercury, even though in the opinion of those surgeons whom he had consulted, his disease was not venereal. The duration of the disease, as it had made no greater progress, induced me to coincide in the opinion which had been given him. His tongue was much furred, his appetite was moderate, and he was not conscious that his digestion was otherwise than good. His bowels were perfectly regular. I desired him to take five grains of the pilul. hydrarg. every second night; but before he took them to remark the colour of the discharges from his bowels, and to observe whether the medicine produced any change of it. In a week's time he called upon me, and said, I come to tell you the strangest thing that perhaps you ever heard, which is, that I actually do not know the precise spot where the lump on my shin was situated, and doubtless these pills which you directed are a most wonderful compound of opium. The first gave me sleep, which I had not had for three months. After taking a second I have slept soundly all night, and feel myself alert in the day. Every other preparation of opium, which I have taken, failed in producing sleep, and made me ill during the succeeding day. After all, continued he, it cannot be the pills that have made me well, for they have had no perceptible effect on me. I asked him, had he, as I requested him, remarked the colour of the alvine discharges? He replied, he had, and that before he took the medicine they were (to use the patient's own words) as black as his hat, and now they were of the colour of a ripe Seville orange. The great relief arising from the correction of the biliary secretion was not to me so strange as the patient expected. It is doubtless such remarks that have impressed some medical men with the opinion that the liver was the root of the evil in all disorders of the digestive organs.

"Cases like the present appear to me highly valuable on many accounts. They shew that hepatic disorder may disturb the sensorium, either immediately, or intermediately, by disordering other organs concerned in digestion; they shew how disorders of the abdominal viscera may become the cause of various other diseases, by disturbing the source of sensation and nervous energy; and they further shew that unirritating and undebilitating doses of mercury have, probably by their local action in the bowels, a great influence in correcting the secretion of bile, and by this means of relieving hepatic irritation.

"Nothing in pathology is more generally admitted, than the reciprocal operation of disorders of the head and of the digestive organs on each other;

yet the exceptions to this general rule deserve to be remarked in a comprehensive examination of the subject. Some persons have great disorder of the digestive organs, without any apparent affection of the nervous system; and even diseases of a fatal nature may take place in the former organs without affecting the latter. Indeed, if we examine any of the most evident sympathetic affections, we shall find the same exceptions. The stomach generally sympathizes with disorder of the uterus, but it does not invariably do so.

"Many of the symptoms recorded in the description of the state of health of those persons who are affected by disorder in the digestive organs, denote a disturbance of the nervous and muscular powers. When we observe this compound disorder we can seldom determine which were the primarily affected organs. General nervous irritation may have preceded the disorder of the stomach and bowels, or may have been caused by it. The history will generally shew, that the derangement of the digestive organs is secondary. When it arises from local irritation, it can be produced only through the medium of the sensorium. When it is idiopathic, it frequently originates in causes which affect the nervous system primarily; such as anxiety, too great exertion of mind or body, and impure air. Sedentary habits and irregularities of diet are causes which may be supposed to act locally on the organs themselves. Nervous irritability and weakness are not perhaps susceptible of a direct cure by medicine; but the disorders of the digestive organs are more corrigible by medical remedies. In practice, these require our chief attention; and if their disorders be corrected, all nervous irritation frequently ceases, and health is restored. In many instances the nervous irritation, which has induced the disease, is trivial, and would soon cease, were it not kept up by the re-action of its secondary symptoms."

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

As you are now treating upon indigestion, and have most humanely advised upon several cases, I take the liberty of troubling you with mine, which I imagine to be without parallel in the history of that most terrible of human afflictions—a depraved digestion. It is as follows:

From my earliest infancy I never was of a robust constitution, yet I brushed up to twenty years of age almost without a day's illness; alas, for the last three years I have not known what it is to enjoy a week's real good health. The first symptoms of my disorder was a sense of fulness after dinner, at first immediately afterwards, but finally not till five or six hours, the pain attending increasing with the length of time before it commenced. I think it singular that at this period no person could feel more comfortable than myself immediately after a good meal; but whenever I eat hearty, at the time I mention, I was seized with the most violent and excruciating pains in the bowels, not twisting, or like that produced by eating unripe fruit, but a weight pressing upwards and downwards, as though all my food was turned into stone,—not a continued, but a gradually increasing pain, till it came to a sort of climax, most cruelly distorting every limb and feature I possessed, covering me also with a profuse perspiration; brandy instead of allaying only increased it, finally assisting to discharge the contents of my stomach, which even after seven or eight hours continuance appeared the same as when I first took my food; for a short time only hard meats and carelessness in masticating produced such terrible effects; since then however my stomach has got so vitiated, that notwithstanding the utmost care, I am every now and then overtaken, and enjoy the sublimity of pain for almost a week together. But, Mr. Editor, this is not all: a system so long deranged must get out of tone in other respects; mine is miserably impaired. I have a total sinking at the breast after the slightest fatigue, so that it really seems as if the stomach had vacated its seat, and all my powers were annihilated. I have a deeply seated cough, which at times is exceedingly troublesome, producing

violent pains in the head. I am tormented almost every night, by continued and incessant cramps, and from the great pain I experience, do really think, if they continue, I shall be deprived of the use of my limbs. I have startings and horrors in the night; constantly having the most frightful dreams, often waking in a frenzy; and thrice within the last month, I have had the night-mare in the horrid manner you describe,—it makes my blood run cold while I write.—With me to feel cold and to catch cold is almost synonymous. Like your correspondent X. Y. Z. I am subject to a defluxion of the nose, mine is almost constant, and not so copious as his. Independent of my food, for some time past I have been subject to a constant bowel complaint, that is, I always feel uneasy in my bowels, and have daily two or three copious stools, which have been almost white, but are now of a greenish black, of a most disagreeable odour. It is almost needless to tell you I am very nervous, and have cold chills running up the back into my head, even by the side of a large fire. I hold, Sir, a sort of half existence; sometimes I even enter company, smiling, joking, and attempting to appear gay, but, alas! it is the gaiety of that despair so eloquently described by a modern poet:

"Yet he can smile
With seeming careless jollity,
And o'er the goblet gay will join the laugh,
And strive to play the courtier deftily,
But vainly—
The worm that fattens the dead man's socket,
Looks not less like the life that glitter'd there,
Than that faint smile, the heart exulting mirth
It mimics."

NEELE'S POEMS, p. 36.

I feel uneasy all the time I am in company, and regularly retire miserable, and am pained in my bowels even from the smallest gratification of the palate. I sleep in town. My business not unhealthy, but close—a woollen draper. I have consulted several physicians whose prescriptions have only for a short time relieved me. I am often under the hands of an apothecary, who bids me have patience, while he plentifully doses me with compounds and mixtures. Finally, Sir, I do think my case so complicated and confounding, that I despair of ever being effectually cured: it is true, a sort of forlorn hope at time agitates my breast. I expect something from your spirited little publication; oh, I do earnestly entreat you, to take my case into your most serious consideration, and wishing you success in the dissemination of those liberal and enlightened principles, which may be seen in every page of your work, I remain, Sir,

your obedient servant,
March 5, 1824. H.

CASE OF MALFORMATION IN AN INFANT.

"THE following singular instance of malformation in an infant came under my notice a few days ago, while officiating for Dr. Granville; and, at his suggestion, I send you the following account of it for insertion in the Medical and Physical Journal, hoping it may prove not altogether uninteresting to your readers. In order fully to establish the authenticity of the case, I inclose the name and address of the parents; but I refrain from making them public, out of respect to their feelings, lest it might excite idle curiosity, and thereby add to the weight of affliction under which they are at present labouring.

"The mother is a patient of the Benevolent Institution, and was attended, during her confinement, by one of the midwives of that charity. The case was a presentation of the breech, and, as might be expected, proved tedious; but no unusual occurrence whatever took place during the progress of the labour. She is a well-formed, middle-aged woman, and has had five labours anteriorly to the present, the first of which produced twins. The children were well-shaped and healthy, and, with the exception of the twins, are now all alive. In her former pregnancies, no particularly unpleasant symptoms occurred; but during the last, she says, she has been constantly restless and feverish, and has been much troubled with incontinence of urine. The labour did not occur till the period of utero-gestation was fully completed.

"The child (with the exception of those deviations from the natural structure, which have induced me to trouble you upon the present occasion,) is a large, fat, healthy boy: the face, in particular, is more pleasing than is usually met with so soon after birth. The head, neck, chest, and body are well-shaped; but both the superior and inferior extremities are more or less deformed. The arms after having emerged about three inches from the trunk, terminate in conical extremities, precisely similar in appearance to the stump of an amputated arm. At the end of the right arm there is a small excrescence, like a pimple; while upon the left, at nearly the same place, there is a larger projection, with two smaller eminences upon it, as if nature had here made an imperfect attempt at the formation of a hand and two fingers. The penis is rather larger than is generally found in infants of the same age; the testicles are decidedly larger than usual. All the natural passages are pervious. The left leg and foot are correctly formed, but the thigh is only about one-half its proper length: this defect, of course, brings the knee too near the body, and gives the whole limb an unnatural appearance. The right lower extremity is altogether deformed. The thigh proceeds about two inches from the body, and then abruptly terminates in something like a foot with only two toes.

"The cause of this curious malformation is attributed by the mother to a fright, which she experienced when she was about six weeks or two months advanced in pregnancy. The account which she gives is as follows:—She was one day standing at her door, when a beggar without arms, and who had also a wooden leg, came up to her, and demanded some money; she refused to give him any; upon which he suddenly sprung towards her, making a motion with his mutilated arms as if he would embrace her. She was very much frightened at the time, and mentioned it to a neighbour; but did not think of the circumstance again, till she saw the child, when it immediately returned to her recollection.

"It may, perhaps, be objected, that the whole of the above statement is a fabrication of the mother, invented after the birth of the child: but in answer to this, I am enabled to say, that, from enquiries which I have instituted, and also from various circumstances, which it would be unnecessary here to detail, I have ascertained, beyond all doubt, that the above account is strictly correct.

"This case may possibly, by some, be considered as countenancing the opinion that the mother's imagination possesses the power of deforming the fœtus in utero. I must beg leave to observe, that, from anatomical considerations, I do not believe the possibility of such an occurrence; but still it is worthy of observation, that the period of gestation, at which the fright is stated to have taken place, is precisely the one at which it is probable that the embryo would be most susceptible of such an alteration in its form; since it is well known that, at about the seventh week after conception, the extremities of the fœtus are by no means fully formed, but appear to be merely the rudiments of the future limbs." The *London Medical and Physical Journal.*

HINTS TO LYING-IN WOMEN.

As soon as a woman passes the pains of childbirth, she thinks no more of them. The elasticity of her mind not only restores her spirits to their ordinary standard, but in many instances sends them bounding "into high air." This carries its danger with it; for happy in having thus escaped she talks to every one; a whole host of how d'y' do friends crowd into the room; caudle spoons clatter, wines and brandy breathe, and nurses laugh—all are joyful; and each good-naturedly puts in a spoke to the wheel of the poor woman's destruction. She is recommended any thing as *delicious*, another as "fine," for one in her situation; a third tells her she has gone through enough, God knows, and she must now make up for it—in short, she indulges against the directions of her accoucheur, and if puerperal fever does not set in, those stages of it which often are set down as "not quite so well to day" do; and in

fever death stands at the door. Eating hard and improper food causes it, and most particularly stewed oysters. Out of it few indeed recover. Let women then particularly attend to quiet for several days after lying in—live upon fluid meats, gruel, &c. with but very little wine, and never neglect to attend to the bowels—a dose of castor oil should be taken at least every second or third day for a fortnight, as costiveness is generally prevalent after delivery. If castor oil cannot be taken, a solution of salts and manna will be nearly as good. Giving wine and cordials immediately after delivery is another bad practice, generally speaking: but there are exceptions—for instance, in cases of great exhaustion, wine or cordials are necessary; as in the case of the Princess Charlotte, whose life would have been saved by a glass of brandy.* But if a little wine is necessary immediately upon delivery, which we think in most cases safe, it should not be repeated. We shall extend our remarks to *milk fever* next.

TABLE OF GYMNASTIC EXERCISES.

1. Prolonged inspirations, the patient sitting.

2. Prolonged inspirations, the patient standing, the arms fixed.

3. The same exercise, the arms hanging down.

4. The same, the arms extended horizontally.

5. The same, the arms fixed to a horizontal pole.

6. Deep inspiration, and counting a certain number without drawing the breath.

7. Movement of the feet on the ground, the patient sitting.

8. Deep inspiration, the patient lying on the left side, and leaning on the elbow.

9. In the same position, to raise and to lower the body.

10. Walking slowly, and making deep inspirations.

11. Walking a little faster, and counting several steps, without drawing breath.

12. Bending without rising, the weak hand fixed above.

13. Piaffer with both hands fixed to the horizontal pole

14. Bending the body, bearing a weight in the weak hand.

15. Piaffer, bearing the same weight in the weak hand.

16. Lifting up a small box from the ground with both hands.

17. The same exercise with the weak hand.

18. To declaim without moving.

19. The same, walking slowly.

20. Singing, without drawing breath.

MOTION OF THE ARMS, THE PATIENT STANDING.

21, 22, 23. Movements of balance simple, in front and on one side.

25. 26, 27. Develope other motions of the arms, difficult to describe without diagrams.

28. To imitate the motion of sawing, the patient placed below.

29. The same, the patient placed above.

30. The above exercises with the weak hand only.

31. To draw upon a spring with the weak hand only.

32. The same, the arms and body being fixed.

33. Seated on the ground, to rise with the assistance of the arms, the feet fixed.

34. Lying down horizontally, to raise the body without the assistance of the arms.

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35. Exercise of the arm with a pulley, the patient sitting, the body fixed.

36. The same with the weak hand only.

37. The same, the head fixed in a straight direction.

38. The same, direction of the head to the weak side.

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* It always appeared to us an unaccountable circumstance that Dr. Symms, (we believe the same that reports to Mr. Peel, that females may work safely at the tread-mill,) did not prescribe stimulating medicines. Sir R. Croft told him every symptom. We think he is as wrong in his judgment upon the tread-mill as upon the case of the unfortunate princess.

39. Walking some distance, giving the weak arm to a tall person.

40. Lying on the chest, to raise the body backwards.

41. Sitting on the ground, to pull a stick, first with both hands, then with the weak one.

42. Piaffer, leaping up with a weight in the weak hand.

43. The cross step, in the same manner.

44, 45, 46. Other movements, not explainable without diagrams.

47. To rise and to fall, the knees fixed to the arms.

48. To bend the lower extremities, the arms fixed, the weak one higher than the other."—*London Medical and Physical Journal.*

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Horchound Tea in the Morning to cure a Cough.

It is of little use in recent affections of cough; but is of great benefit in cough of some standing.

Decoctions of Tansey and Dandelion as Stomachics.

These decoctions are great favourites with the country folk, and they are good in their way occasionally, but the Pharmacopœia has superseded them by better medicines.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A Stomachic and Laxative Draught.

One drachm of tincture of rhubarb,
One of tincture of senna,
One ounce of water.—Mix.

A Saline Purgative Mixture.

Of Epsom salts, half an ounce,
Of tartar emetic, one grain,
Common water, half a pint.

A wine-glass full every hour. This is a good medicine in feverish cases, but the patient should be in bed.

TO REMOVE WARTS.

The most accumulated and inveterate warts may be removed by the following plan:

A bit of impure potass or *lapis infernalis* moistened should be applied to the warts, or gently rubbed to the surface of them a few minutes, so as to leave a kind of whitish paste upon them, over this should be applied a stripe of sticking plaster, and allowed to remain on for a week. On removing the plaster, if the warts are not quite gone, a similar application must be used.

SPRAINS.

Accidents of this description take place usually in the ancles, wrists, knees, and elbows. The symptoms are too well known to need minute description. When the accident happens, the part should be kept wet with goulard water, or common water and spirits, which is the best application, and continued throughout the cure, if great pain and swelling does not set in; but if the latter takes place, then warm fomentations of camomile and water will be necessary. In either case the patient must be well purged by salts.

In many cases of slight sprains, it may be useful after the first week to rub the part gently with a little hartshorn and sweet oil; but although it is an old practice, we do not strongly recommend it, upon the principle that the sprain is a rupture of some internal part, and that *rubbing* cannot give it a fair chance to restore itself. Cold applications we think the best, and when the inflammation is abated, pumping water upon the limb will produce great benefit; this should be done every day for several minutes. Let those who meet with an accident of this description, as they regard their quiet, avoid the pulling and dragging of the limb, which is so common amongst country people. It is adding injury to injury. Rest is indispensable: without that little benefit can arise; and the want of it we think produces most of the aggravated cases of sprain which occur.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

Presuming that the accompanying table will not be altogether foreign to your purpose, I take the liberty of

sending it, to be inserted in the Medical Adviser, should you deem it worthy a place therein

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. CLARK.

Chatham, March 1st, 1824.

—

The accompanying table is intended to answer the following question, viz. Supposing our globe to contain nine hundred and thirty millions of inhabitants; what time would it occupy entirely to depopulate this earth, allowing that no more persons be born into the world until the present race is become extinct?

It may be necessary to state, that in dividing one section of time, that is, one million of minutes, the product was one year, eleven months, three weeks, one day, ten hours, and forty minutes; but bearing in mind that the astronomical year consists of 365 days, six hours, nine minutes, and thirty seconds, I have added twelve hours and twelve minutes, to the above product, which gives one year, eleven months, three weeks, one day, twenty-two hours, and fifty-two minutes; thereby leaving seven minutes for the remaining five days and two hours.

A TABLE *shewing the exact Limits of an Age, or Generation, of the Human Race.*

Whole Population in Sections.	Deaths per Minute.	Time occupied in Minutes.	Time occupied in Years.	Months.	Weeks.	Days.	Hours.	Min.
60,000,000	60	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
58,000,000	58	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
56,000,000	56	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
54,000,000	54	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
52,000,000	52	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
50,000,000	50	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
48,000,000	48	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
46,000,000	46	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
44,000,000	44	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
42,000,000	42	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
40,000,000	40	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	22
38,000,000	38	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	22
36,000,000	36	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	55
34,000,000	34	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	55
32,000,000	32	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
30,000,000	30	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
28,000,000	28	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
26,000,000	26	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
24,000,000	24	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
22,000,000	22	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
20,000,000	20	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
18,000,000	18	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
16,000,000	16	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
14,000,000	14	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
12,000,000	12	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
10,000,000	10	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
8,000,000	8	1,000,900	1	11	2	1	22	52
6,000,000	6	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
4,000,000	4	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
2,000,000	2	1,000,000	1	11	3	1	22	52
930,000,000		30,000,000	57	3	1	5	10	0

The first column of figures shews the whole population of our globe in sections; the second points out the rate of deaths per minute; the third gives the time in minutes for the departure of each section, and the fourth the time in years, months, &c. which shews, that if the departure of the first section at the rate of sixty per minute, occupies a given time, the departure of the second at fifty-eight per minute will occupy the same time, and so on to the end.

W. C.

NUTMEG, ITS PROPERTIES, &c.

THE nutmeg tree is a native of the Molucca islands. It has, however, been nearly extirpated from the greater number of them, by the narrow policy of the Dutch, and is cultivated at Banda only, where a sufficient quantity is reared to supply with mace and nutmegs, the whole of Europe. It rises to the height of thirty feet, producing many erect branches, which, as well as the trunk, exude, when wounded, a red glutinous juice, and are covered with a smooth ash-coloured bark:—the leaves, which stand alternately on short petioles, are elliptical, pointed. undulated, entire, and obliquely nerved, of a bright green colour on the upper surface, and greyish underneath, with an aromatic taste. The flowers are present at the same time with the fruit, inodorous, small, supported on axillary peduncles, and male and female on the same, and on separate trees; the calyx in both is fleshy, smooth, and divided at the edge into three moderately spreading segments. There are no corollas: the filaments in the male flowers are short, united into one columnar bundle, inserted into the receptacle, and bear each a linear anther which surrounds the upper half of the filament. The gum in the female is superior, oval, and crowned with a style terminated by two stigmas: the fruit is an elliptrio-spheroidal, one-celled, superior berry, marked with a shallow longitudinal groove on one side, fleshy, smooth, one-celled, and the size of a small peach; the flesh is thick, rather solid, and finally dries up to a coriaceous crust, which opens at one side, and displays the nutmeg in its shell, covered with an arillus, which is the officinal mace, and by it fixed to the bottom of the cell. This is a fleshy coriaceous, saffron, or yellow-coloured substance, divided into many slips, which closely envial the shell of the nutmeg. The kernel, which is the proper nutmeg, is of a roundish oval form marked on the outside with many vermicular furrows; within, of a fleshy farinaceous substance, variegated, whitish and bay, and having a cavity at the bottom for the embryo.

The nutmeg tree yields three crops annually, the first in April, which is the best; the second in August, and the third in December: yet the fruit requires nine months to ripen it. When it is gathered, the outer coriaceous covering is first stripped off, and then the mace carefully separated and dried in the sun. The nutmegs in the shell are next exposed to heat and smoke for three months, then broken, and the kernels thrown into a strong mixture of lime and water, after which they are cleaned and packed up. This process is necessary for their preservation, and with the same intention the mace is sprinkled with salt water. There are several varieties of the tree, but that denominated the Queen nutmeg, which bears a small round nut, is the best. They are imported in chests, which contain each from a hundred to a hundred and forty pounds weight: the mace comes also in chests of different sizes. The essential oil which is obtained in Banda, by the distillation of the nuts, is brought in bottles, and the expressed oil in stone jars. Nutmegs are frequently punctured and boiled, in order to obtain the essential oil, and the orifices afterwards closed with powdered sassafras; the fraud is detected by the lightness of the nutmeg.

The nutmeg has a fragrant, agreeable, spicy odour, and a warm aromatic taste. It is easily cut with a knife, but not very pulverulent: when cut transversely and examined by the microscope, the dark-coloured veins which run through its substance, appear to consist of a cellular

matter filled with oil, which is the active matter of the nutmeg. Alcohol and ether extract completely the active qualities of nutmeg. When the ethereal tincture, which is limpid, and of a golden yelow colour, is evaporated on water, a small portion of volatile essential oil unites with the water, and a white opaque granular subaceous substance, heavier than water, which has much the appearance of the expressed oil, is deposited. When alcohol is digested on this substance, it dissolves very little of it, but becomes yellow, and acquires the qualities of a spirituous solution of the essential oil: the undissolved substance, if washed in water, is nearly insipid, melts at a temperature of 150°, and on cooling, concretes into a translucent brittle cake, which has the properties of wax. The part of the nutmeg insoluble in ether is chiefly gum and starch:—in distillation with water, nutmegs yield $\frac{1}{32}$ part of their weight of essential volatile oil, and by expression one-third of a subaceous fixed oil: hence the components of the nutmeg seems to be starch, gum, volatile oil, wax, and fixed oil. The volatile oil possesses the odour and taste of the nutmeg in a concentrated degree, is of a pale straw-colour, limpid, transparent, and lighter than water:—the expressed oil, which is erroneously called oil of mace, when first drawn is limpid and yellow, but on cooling acquires the consistence of spermaceti, and somewhat of the appearance of Castile soap, being whitish, mottled with reddish brown. Its odour is agreeable, and slightly aromatic, and its taste fatty, pungent, and bitterish: it appears to be a vegetable cerate, or a triple compound of fixed oil, volatile oil, and wax. Besides the genuine expressed oil, there are two other sorts found in the shops; one which is said to come from Holland, of a paler colour, and in flat square cakes, and another which is an artificial composition of such palm oil and spermaceti scented with a little volatile oil of nutmeg. Mace resembles the nutmeg in its odour and taste, but is more pungent and bitter, in laminated, flexible, thin pieces, unctuous to the feel, and of a deep reddish yellow colour. Alcohol and ether extract its active principles, and when the ethereal tincture is evaporated on water, a thick deep yellow coloured, very pungent, and odorous oil, is left in drops on the surface of the water, with some resin, and a small portion of extractive is deposited, but no waxy granular matter.

As the medical properties of nutmeg and mace depend on the essential oil they contain, they agree in those circumstances, and both are stimulated, carminative, and in large doses narcotic. Mace is more generally used as a culinary spice, but the nutmeg and its volatile oil are in frequent use to cover the disagreeable taste of other medicines, and are sometimes ordered in cases of languors, vomitting, and diarrhœa, and in flatulent cholic. On account of the narcotic property of the oil, nutmeg should be cautiously employed in apoplectic and paralytic habits. In India its dangerous effects have been frequently felt, and in this country instances have occurred, in which the nutmeg, taken in large quantity, produced drowsiness, great stupor, and insensibility, and on awakening, delirium, which alternated with sleep for several hours. The volatile oil is sometimes used as an external stimulant, and the expressed oil is seldom employed for any other purpose.

PATHOLOGY.

Degeneration of Muscles from long Inaction.

M. Guersent lately presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris, an example of that degeneration which has been called *fatty* of the muscles of the breech. A child was affected for three years with a complete contraction of the right lower extremity, the leg being permanently bent on the thigh, and the thigh on the pelvis. He died of the croup. The spinal marrow was healthy, as well as the nerves arising from it. The great gluteus muscle, deprived of its natural red colour, presented the appearance of yellow wax; but the form and direction of the fibre were easily recognised, and the tissue of which these were composed could not be confounded with that of the adipose

substance between them. The muscle, then, was not converted into fat, but only the fibres constituting the basis of the muscular tissue was entirely deprived of colouring matter. This case is in unison with the observations of M. Beclard, who thinks that this kind of transformation in muscles consists solely in their being deprived of colour, and becoming extennated, while fat accumulates in the interstices between the fibres. In the same individual, the gastronemius muscle of the contracted side was remarkable for its great developement, although it was extremely pale.—*Revue Medicale*, Novembre.

TO RESTORE MUSTY FLOUR.

One pound of common magnesia is to be combined with 250lbs. of musty flour—that is, in the minor proportion of 30 grains to one pound of flour. It is to be leavened and baked in the usual way of making bread.

The loaves will rise well, will be spongy and light, and also whiter than bread made in the ordinary way. And will also have an excellent taste.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

Goss and Co. — Ægis of Life.— Socrates on Marriage — Non-Medical Commentary — C—— behind the Curtain—Carpe diem Cock-h——d, and all that— Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, and "A private door round the corner."

O! All ye victims of this dangerous hydra — ye ulcerated throats, bespotted skins, caries bones, noded shins, nocturnal pains, denuded craniums, shivering teeth, delapidated noses, schirrous livers, deranged digestion, and ruined constitutions. "List, O list!" Ye fathers of scrofulous children, and ye mothers of dwindled nature, open your ears to the tale of the destroyer.

Goss and Company! Good God! was there ever such a heap of filth and infamy as this swindling firm of straw! Was there ever such a cancer upon society—such an adroit and plausible system of rapacious plundering! The people of the next century will bring down the name of Goss to ridicule the credulity of their forefathers: for then, please Heaven, and the British Parliament, quackery will be crushed.

The person that moves this swindling concern, is neither called Goss and Co., nor does he know the cranium from the Coxygis—an ignorant and humbugging fellow, that relies upon the effects of his advertisements, which have been got up in a most pompous and affected style, calculated to impress upon the ignorant reader, as Goldsmith's talker on Cosmogony, imposed upon his Vicar of Wakefield, headed with a Latin quotation, and filled with inflated bombast and egregious lies. Let us examine one of these gudgeon flies; thus it runs:—

"*Carpe diem—Be promptly wise.*

"*When science began to explore the complicated machinery of man, she was speedily entangled in a labyrinth of mysterious confusion, (confusion!) from which intellectual perseverance alone emancipated her.*" *(Not yet Mr. Goss.)* "*Ignorance and empyricism, however, still oppose their venomous hostility, and the prejudice of weak minds, in some measure, encourages their audacity.*" *(The only truth in your advertisement Mr. Goss.)* "*As truth is to falschood so may our public statements be compared with their unqualified pretensions, and to expose their fallacies, we have not hesitated to avow ourselves as practitioners in a class of disease which endangers the mystic evolutions of nature. (Lord ha' mercy on us!)* "To be brief, we are members of the London College of Surgeons" *(a li*, a d——— li*.)* "The intricate and much neglected diseases of the urethra have been carefully and studiously considered; as have also those delicate and important sympathies, which refer to the female sex. The infirmities"—faugh! we can go no further into the dirty composition, and we really wonder that the editor of the paper from which we extract it ever suffered it to be inserted. At the bottom of this advertisement are the addresses

of many respectable booksellers, from whom his filthy book can be bought, and we see some men amongst them which we thought would never have permitted their names to be printed with such abomination.

Now what must the world think when they hear that this fellow, who thus advertises under the name of Goss and Co. and *quotes Latin*, does not know the English of "*hic, hæc, hoc ;*"—that he knows nothing of surgery,—that he was withh is brother an under-strapping scene dauber with a strolling company;—and that he now keeps a house for sick women of the town, to which their cronies have free access!!! Can this be a safe and well legislated country, where the public can be thus imposed upon and swindled openly in the newspapers? Can any member of Parliament read this paper, and when he lies down to rest, say, "I have done my duty?"

We are not hatching up a string of circumstances to amuse or astonish our readers; we are writing facts, awful, awful facts, and the following extracts from one of the many letters of complaint we have received will speak for us. The original shall be left at our publishers for the inspection of any who doubt.

"When I wrote to Goss and Co., I enclosed a pound bill, and asked their advice. I received a letter by return of post, asking all particulars, (useless to them), for instance, whether I was fair, tall, handsome, and many other things of little consequence. I was quite disgusted; they concluded with requesting 5l., and they would send me a box of medicines. I received the medicine and a modest request for 25l. and they would cure me; the "board of physicians," they said, had a consultation, and that was their answer. I thought I had better pocket the affront. I never replied, and lost my 6l. Their medicine I took to a Chemist, and he said I could have got it, bottles and all, for 5s.; there were about 30 pills, 12 small powders, 2 pint bottles, and a box value 1d. I threw the stuff away, and destroyed the letters, else I should have sent them. Mr. Abernethy recommended me, for the very same thing, merely warm bathing."

To give our readers an idea of this fellow's classical knowledge, he consulted an humble young man, an usher in a school, to write him an advertisement. "Let us have a Latin motto," say the Doctor, "home to the point you know." The young inditer hit upon the following line, which caught the man of straw's ear. "That will do," said he, "Ægis—Ægis—that's it, that will do, give me the pen, till I see how it looks." Accordingly he wrote the following line from the other's dictation.

"Eady *monumentum perennias*
Ægis."

"No, damme," said he, "I see Eady's name in it, and I wont have it:" so he then fixed upon "Carpe diem."

We are sorry our paper and space are running so short. We have, however, room enough to say to the respectable man who "Goss and Co. so far gained over to his persuasion as to solicit our forbearance in unkennelling this fox, the we have kept our promise as far as not alluding to certain circumstances; for instance, we have not mentioned the quack's origin, nor his brother's black-legging, kite-flying, &c. nor the dirty way in which he got into Fleet Street.

To our readers, we say, that although we have not room to place this impudent impostor in a still fuller light in this number; yet he shall have another turn. We mean to take a second review of him, as well as Eady, Jordan, Cameron, Lynch—the black, Courtenay, Mrs. Johnson,—the soother, and Mitchel. *(Gardener the Worm bottler next.)*

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

The Wine Duty.—We congratulate the people of England upon the hopes of being able to participate with their brethren of other European countries in the benefits which the general use of wine must produce. The peasants of France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, &c. can afford to drink their pint of wholesome wine, while those of England must

satisfy themselves with beer, which is often adulterated with deleterious drugs, and in its best form is but a poor substitute for wine. Hence indigestion is more common in England than upon the continent; for wine promotes digestion, while malt liquor tends to injure it. Wine and grain alike the blessed fruits of our earth, should be alike dispensed amongst us, and the present excessive duty upon it is as unjust as it is impolitic. If this duty were reduced, the revenue upon wine would be increased by consumption.

Salivation of a Ship's Crew by accident.—One of the medical commissioners of the Royal Navy (Dr. Burnett) has given an account of the whole crew of a King's ship, amounting to two hundred persons, who were affected with salivation in a high degree by the bursting of some vessels containing quicksilver. Many lost their teeth, and two died. All the live-stock, consisting of pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, cats, dogs, rats, and birds were also put under its effects;—even the decks of the ship were covered with a black powder. Several tons of quicksilver were scattered about the ship, which from rolling about became oxydised, and it is supposed affected the atmosphere.

Accidental Poisoning. — A few days ago the two children of Mr. Chas. Colville, of Bramstead Park, in searching for berries, &c. ate of the root of *hyoscijamous niger*, henbane, which poisoned one, and left the other with but a small chance for his life. Frequent have been the instances of fatal effects from this accident; for the root of henbane is so like a parsnip, that even grown people have mistaken it. These roots are used for what is termed Anodyne necklaces, first turned into form, and strung like beads, a most arrant quackery, and a lamentable proof of what fools are to be found in the midst of knowledge. Henbane grows generally on the roadside, which makes it still more dangerous.

Thurtell.—It has been stated in all the papers that the bones of this murderer were being articulated. This is not quite correct: the bones with some of the remaining soft parts are now macerating, and must be a considerable time before the bones will be fit to put together.

Davy the Composer. — This spark of genius was extinguished by a shower of alcohol. He died in consequence of a disease brought on by intemperance, in which Charley Incledon good naturedly assisted. He however for the last three years lived abstemiously. We were consulted by him two years ago, and was of some temporary assistance to him. His disorder was of such a nature that he was in an eternal state of irritation; nor even in sleep, which never exceeded two hours at a time, was he free from it; yet in this state of suffering, he composed many beautiful little pieces.

London Hospital.—We have reluctantly to observe upon the improper conduct of this public institution in keeping its gates constantly shut; a practice contrary to that of Guy's or Bartholomew's. Last week we were going by the gates, and witnessed a distressing scene, which arose out of this practice. A man received a severe compound fracture of the leg, and several other bruises, by a load of dung having fallen upon him; and in an almost lifeless state was kept stretched upon a shutter in the rain while the porter went up from the gate to the hospital, to go through some necessary form of getting the keys, and reporting the case, &c. for at least ten minutes. This is not the first time such a circumstance has happened. The conductors of this hospital ought to know that in many cases of accident, time is every thing, —bleeding from an artery for instance; and that it is the duty of the resident medical man to be as expeditious in examining the case as possible: *ten minutes* might be of material consideration in many accidents.

We are informed by a naval surgeon who has just arrived from the East Indies, that a shark was caught on the passage, and that on opening the stomach, a small human skull was found unbroken; the brains were completely dissolved, as were the external integuments and eyes.

The disease, which in our last week

we described as "*the horses' itch*," is cured by the horse slaughterers with boiled vinegar, by washing the parts with it. These men call the disease *the duke*.

A poor woman was taken in labour in Finsbury square, last week; and from the delay necessary in getting a parish order for her admittance into the workhouse, she was a considerable time in the open street, in the most deplorable pain. Lying-in hospitals or workhouses should instantly admit a casualty of this kind without delay. The Dublin Lying-in hospital is a pattern in this respect, as well as in all others.

THE TREADMILL.—In consequence of the agitation which the press has given to the question of the propriety of putting females to work upon it, has occasioned the most praiseworthy activity upon the part of the Home Secretary, Mr. Peel, to ascertain the real state of the case. He first took the opinion of all the surgeons of prisons, where the machine was employed; but finding such difference of opinion amongst them, he recently employed three physicians to examine the question as peculiarly regards females. These physicians went to Cold-bath-fields, walked about the yard, saw the women at work, heard Mr. Webb's, (the surgeon,) noodling observations upon the subject, looked over his books, where there *are no casualties* entered, received the most profound attention from all hands, and then went home perfect masters of all the minute intricacies which their mission was capable of eliciting, and declared that the labour of the treadmill was *proper employment for females* — but they very cautiously reserved a loop-hole to escape hereafter from public censure: and that was by stating, that *if properly directed by the surgeon, they could see no objection.* This leaves the question where they found it. To properly direct the labour, a surgeon should stand upon the platform with his lancet in his hand, and his splints and bandages beside him to meet the casualties of women falling off in hysterics, and to watch the moment when their *natural illness might be unexpectedly brought on.* This the three PHYSICIANS CANNOT DENY. Mrs. Kilby, the fearless matron of that prison, who discovered the horrors practised there, was DISCHARGED before the three physicians went to examine the wheels; now let them read the pamphlet* on prison discipline, just published by Rodwell and Martin, and they perhaps may regret that she was not forthcoming, to give them that information she was capable of; and unless their minds were made up against fair examination, her evidence must have dictated a different report from what they gave. Mr. Peel is a man of sense, his head is in its right place, and it would be a pity that through misguided reliance upon three doctors, that history should say his heart was not equally well placed. No better man exists—and no better judgment—and no better mode could be adopted to set this question at rest, than by Mr. Peel himself—let him collect by evidence, THE TRUTH of all the statements published by *Sir J. F. Hippisley, Dr. Good, Mr. Briscoe,* the *John Bull,* and *Medical Adviser*—let him then go *unexpectedly* to each prison, and look upon the poor females with the eye of a man—not a physician—this will do it. It is a pity that questions of humanity should become party questions: and in this case party is high prejudice and obstinacy on one side, against every manly and honest feeling of our nature on the other. — Perhaps the translation of that would be *the magistrates and men-widwives against Mr. Peel,* and men of science.

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* In this pamphlet will be found the evidence of Mrs. Kilby and the other female overseer upon the evil effects of the machine, with a host of facts, collected from the most authentic sources, that make the report of the three Physicians appear a document of no value. The author gives the correspondence of the Secretary of State, and the visiting justices printed by order of the House of Commons, a few days ago. The returns state *three killed, and one limb amputated.*

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Galen is informed, that Eady the Quack is positively deranged. His complaint is of a most variable and incurable character; sometimes assuming a religious melancholy, at others violent rage; and he frequently sits whole days in a comotose state. Dr. Jameson has prescribed for him. Considering this awful visitation, we really regret the severity of our attack upon him; but it was a duty we owed the public.

L. F. of Edinburh; Q. of Bath; S. Z. of Portsmouth, and Mary Belfast, *will find answers at their reepective Post Offices.*

The information we have received about Gardener, the Worm Quack, will be a treat to our readers. He shall walk up immediately after Goss and Co of Bouverie-street.

The correspondent that wants to know where the mouth of an Oyster is situated, is informed that it is inside the shell.—*We think his question is trifling—if not, let him apply to a work on Comparative Anatomy.*

We have received from Humanus *the nine cases that were crippled at Cold Bath Fields last year, and shall consider them.*

The lady G. C. K. alludes to, should take of Rufus's pills and Extract of Colocynth, each half a drachm, calomel, half a scruple; make them into fifteen pills two to be taken every third day, for three doses: after that let her take two every week.

Falcon *has hawked us out a good bird. We shall set our ferrets to find out the claims of Messrs. Thompson and Co. 291, Strand, to our "Annals," &c.*

J. H will find that the Cardomums will be good in either combination, in preventing griping. We are glad to find that his head ache is relieved. We expect, should he not get rid of the other nervous symptoms to hear from him.

L. should use a course of warm baths for a month, attend to the bowels, take two grains of powder of entimony, and one of calomel every second night and then let us hsar from him.

A sufferer indeed, shall have a little satisfaction of Caton.

The communication upon Gardener and Cameron the Quacks, are thankfully received.

Has M. J. of Chapel-place, Borough, got our Letter?—W. B. W. may send a fully described Case.—Any of the improved trusses will do for X. Y. Z.

Juvenis *is informed that the Harrowgate water is sulphureous, deriving its character from its containing sulphuretted hydrogen gas. It is similar to the waters of Moffatt and Aix-la-Chapelle, is slightly sudorific and diuretic.*

Myer Frank, of Manchester, will find a Letter at the Post-Office.

E. E. should leave off the pills and bitter infusions, attend to Dr. Armstrong's advice to him upon his diet, gentle exercise, and between breakfast and dinner every day take one drachm of the tincture of rhubarb, and one of the tincture of sennar, without any addition. The Seidlitz powders, as we have directed them to be prepared, taken before breakfast, once or twice a week, will assist.

It is a pity J. W. C. put no address; let him send it immediately.

R. J. must tell us where to address our opinion. M. A. is thankfully acknowledged. James Lewis must take the Family pill, as in one of our numbers, and cut the nail from the toe.

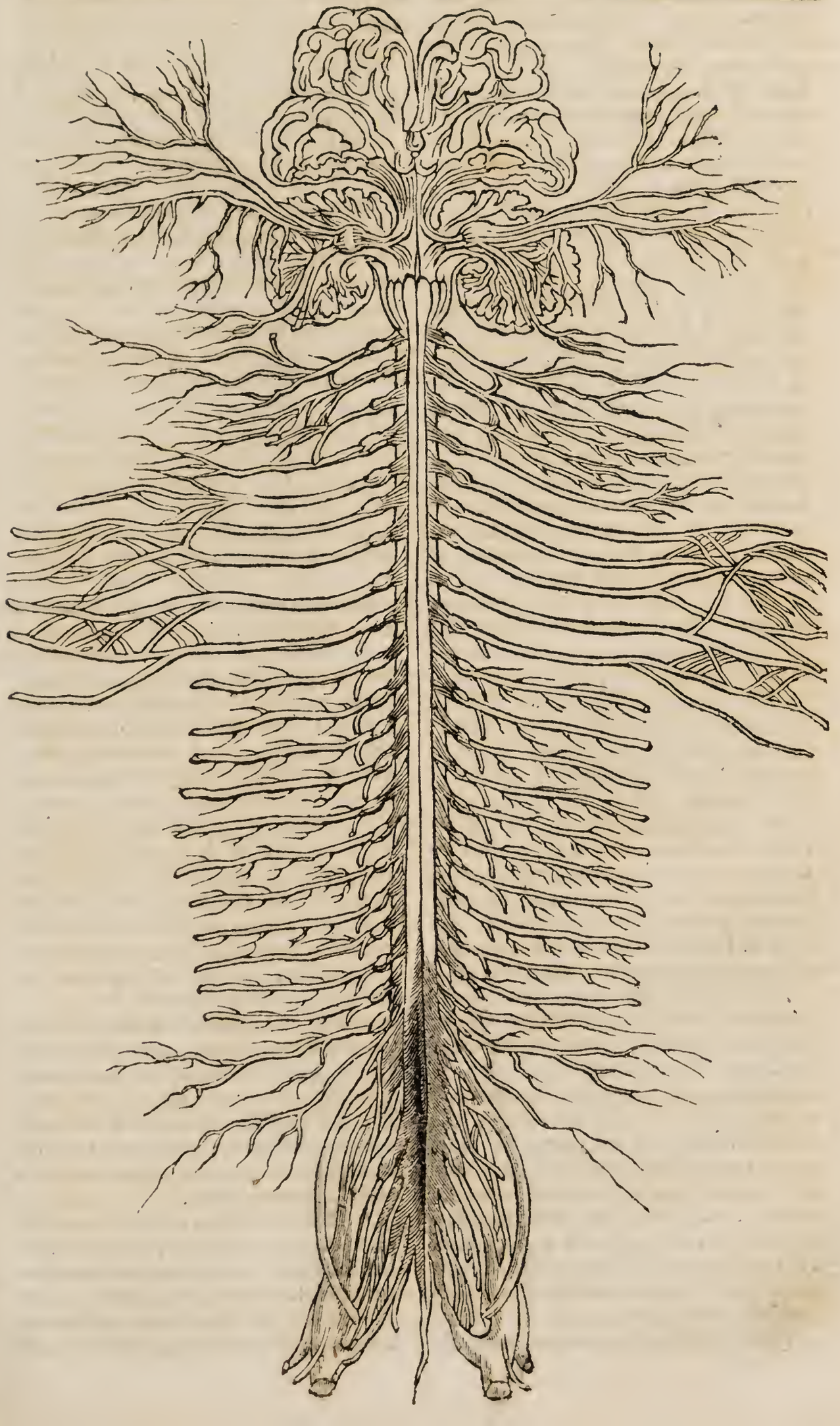
Those correspondents who should happen to receive no reply, should write again, as in the press of business we might perhaps overlook them.

Communications received (post paid) at the Publishers, Messrs. KNIGHT and LACEY, 24, Paternoster Row. Sold also by John Sutherland, Edinburgh; M. Ogle, Glasgow; and — Webb, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrow-smith, Johnson's-court, Fleet-street.

THE
MEDICAL ADVISER,
AND
GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.
EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 16.] SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



THE BRAIN AND NERVES.

Our readers have this week a plate representing the brain and nerves. They will perceive that it is similarly branched with the arteries, which our plate of the 13th number represented. As in the arteries there is a communication from the heart to their most minute ramifications —a continuation of that channel through which the blood is carried—so in the nerves there is a communication from the brain to the most minute and remote branch of the nervous system. Although we can easily comprehend the flowing of the blood through its convoluted course, we cannot do so with regard to the flowing of life,—if we may use the expression—which constitutes that power of feeling in the farthest extremity of the body. The nerves do not contain a fluid like the arteries, but a pulpy white mass, which is the medium to convey that unknown principle, life.—The proof of this is, that if any nerve be divided with a knife, the limb or part which was nourished by it with life, becomes totally insensible, and may be burned or otherwise injured, without producing the least sensation in the animal. Hence it is manifest that the brain is the seat or receptacle of life, as the heart is of the blood. The brain is a mass of pulpy matter which fills completely the whole of the skull, and has many risings upon it, which may, and no doubt does, give a similar protuberance to the bone of the head; and phrenologists have conceived the idea, that each of these risings in the brain has a particular function in producing what is called the mind. This is not at all unlikely. The oracles, the valves, and the ventricles of the heart have their peculiar office, which can be diminished, and as there is nothing useless in the animal structure, the brains, risings, or convolutions, must have their peculiar functions. This is a field of speculation which ought to be cultivated: and although the success of such cultivation may tend to weaken particular creeds in religion, yet it would increase our devotions to the Deity.

[*The intercostal nerves, and the nerves of the extremities are cut short.*]

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

Whether this disorder of the digestive organs be primary or secondary, it generally produces irritation in the brain; and thus may cause, in many instances, actual disease of that organ, as will be stated in the conclusion of this paper. But derangement of the digestive organs arises, in many cases, from established nervous disorder: indeed there is often reason to suppose that it is dependent on, or connected with, actual disease of the brain. In such cases, the correction of the disordered functions of the digestive organs cannot be accomplished; and even if it were practicable, it would not cure the nervous disease. It is however highly necessary and advantageous to attend to the disorder of the digestive organs, where it is only a symptom of nervous disease. The relief of the former will often mitigate, though it cannot cure, the latter.

"The connection of local disease with general disorder has been often remarked: it has been formerly attributed to impurity of the fluids; a theory which is not irrational. Imperfect digestion must influence the qualities of the blood, and all parts of the body may be affected from this source. But in accounting for the reciprocal influence of disorders of the head and the digestive organs on each other, the modern explanation of these phenomena, by means of sympathies, is perhaps preferable. Afflicting intelligence will destroy the appetite, and produce a white tongue in a healthy person; and a blow on the stomach disorders the head. These phenomena take place independently of the blood, and can only be explained by admitting that the disturbance of one organ immediately affects another.

"The writings of the ancients abound with passages, in which local diseases are attributed to affections of the abdominal viscera, and the same fact has been noticed by several of the moderns. The French

surgeons appear to be very solicitous to keep the bowels in a cool and tranquil state; and Dessault ascribes the origin of erysipelas to a bilious cause. The German surgeons, Richter and Schmucker, attribute many local diseases to gastric affections; and in Italy, Scarpa views the subject in the same light. The English practitioners seem to have been less attentive to this class of disorders; insomuch that Fischer, a German, who published an account of the state of medicine in this country, expresses his surprise that the English should be so little acquainted with gastric diseases. I know not exactly what ideas these gentlemen may annex to the terms gastric and bilious disorders, since they do not particularly describe them.

"There is also an excellent dissertation, in which the effects and treatment of disorders of the digestive organs are particularly described, inserted in the eighth volume of the Memoires de la Société Royale de Medicine of Paris for the year 1806, at page 310, entitled Reflections sur le Traitement de la Manie atrabilaire comparé a celui de plusieurs autres Maladies chroniques, et sur les Avantages de la Methode evacuante, par M. Hallé. After describing the discharges from the bowels in atrabiliary mania, he observes, that a similar state of those organs is found in other diseases, namely dropsy, hypochondriasis, accompanied with difficulty of breathing and palpitation, obstinate coughs, and a great number of very different diseases; to all of which the same treatment is applicable. That the extremely prejudicial consequences of disorders of the stomach and bowels have been noticed at all times by persons of observation, and particularly by those who are in the habit of judging of their state by their excretions, is sufficiently evident. The antients sought to correct the error by purging with hellebore, and the moderns by more compound purges; to use the words of M. Hallé, par le mélange de purgatifs résineux et des mercuriaux. I have not, however, met with any physiological investigation of the nature of these diseases, nor of the rational objects of cure. It is to promote such an investigation, that I have laid before the public the facts which have come under my observation, and the reflections to which they have given rise.

"In investigating the connexion between local diseases and disorder of the health in general, I can perceive that failure in the functions and irritation of the digestive organs may act prejudicially on the system in general in various ways. They may produce weakness, for strength and vigour seem to arise from the conversion of our food into perfect blood. They may produce an impure state of that fluid, and they may produce great irritation of the brain, and thus influence the whole body. However, what I have to observe respecting the causes and cure of local diseases will be most properly introduced and best understood after the cases have been recorded, upon which the opinions have been founded.

"The result of all those observations, which I have been able to make relative to this subject, has induced me to believe that the disorder of the digestive organs, caused by the various circumstances which have been recited, consists in a weakness and irritability of the affected parts, accompanied by a deficiency or depravity of the fluids secreted by them, and upon the healthy qualities of which the due performance of their functions seems to depend. This opinion is deduced immediately from the consideration of the symptoms, and confirmed by all the collateral evidence which we can collect. The duration of the affection, without fatal consequences shews, that it is a disorder of functions, and not a disease of structure. Dissections confirm the opinion. Blows which excite general irritation of the digestive organs, produce also the symptoms which characterize the like disorder when it arises from nervous irritation, or is excited by intemperance. I doubt not but every one will, on reflection, consider the disorders of the digestive organs to be of the first importance, and will perceive the propriety of diligently enquiring into their nature, that we may know them

when they exist, and that our attempts to remedy them may be conducted on rational principles. This consideration will, I trust, vindicate me for employing so much time in an investigation which, perhaps, some may consider as tedious and unprofitable.

Occasional Effects of Disorder of the digestive Organs.

"It is generally admitted, that disorders of the chylopoietic viscera will affect the source of sensation, and consequently the whole body; but the variety of diseases which may result from this cause, has not been duly weighed and reflected on.

"It may produce in the nervous system a diminution of the functions of the brain, or a state of excitation, causing delirium; partial nervous inactivity and insensibility, or the opposite state of irritation and pain. It may produce in the muscular system, weakness, tremors, and palsy; or the contrary affections of spasm and convulsions. It may excite fever by disturbing the actions of the sanguiferous system; and cause various local diseases by the nervous irritation which it produces, and by the weakness which is consequent on nervous disorder or imperfect chylification. Or if local diseases occur in a constitution deranged in the manner which I have described, they will become peculiar in their nature and progress, and difficult of cure. Affections of all those parts which have a continuity of surface with the stomach; as the throat, mouth, lips, skin, eyes, nose, and ears, may be originally caused or aggravated by this complaint. I must observe, before I proceed to the relation of cases, that such a disorder of the digestive organs as I have described existed in every instance. I do not take upon myself to say that it was the primary cause of the general derangement of the constitution, with which the local diseases appeared to be connected; it might have been the consequence, as indeed has been stated in these preliminary observations.

(To be continued.)

DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

Jaundice in Infants.

A species of jaundice frequently attacks infants soon after birth, which differs, however, from the true form of the disease, by not possessing that general tinge of yellow—the whites of the eyes, and sometimes the limbs are free from it. It is then called the *yellow gum*. The child under this complaint has great disposition to sleep, which sometimes proves fatal, from producing starvation, as the infant will not awake to suck. Excessive languor is present, and the bowels greatly deranged; the urine is deeply tinged with yellow, and the child wastes away.

The treatment, in this case, as in most diseases of infants is simple, and the object to be attempted, is to free the biliary passages, and promote a healthy formation of bile in the liver.

An emetic must be administered, and the best way is to divide eight grains of ipecacuanha into three parts, and to give one every five minutes, making the child drink some warm fluid—milk and water, or plain water a little sweetened. The child should then be allowed to rest a few hours, when it should be put up to its middle in warm water, and rubbed gently upon the right side and stomach. It should then be wiped dry, and permitted to remain quiet until next day, when a powder composed of four grains of rhubarb, and one of calomel should be administered, and repeated the next day—this will very likely remove the disease; and its beneficial effects may be soon discovered by the gradual disappearance of the yellow tinge from the skin. If the disease does not at the end of a week seem to abate, or not sufficiently fast, a repetition of the above treatment most likely will do it. The child during the course, should not be permitted to sleep too long at any time, but awakened up, and often rubbed upon the stomach before the fire. In most cases the disease lasts from a fortnight to a month; yet we have known those in which the bad symptoms were cut short in twenty-four hours. When the complaint is removed, the infant should not be left to chance; but particular attention should be paid to the future state of

the bowels, so as to guard against still worse consequences; for infants whose liver thus sluggishly acts in performing its functions require frequent opening medicines.—Rhubarb and magnesia should be given every week for a couple of months.

PALPITATION OF THE HEART.

This disease is sometimes in the heart or its great vessels, or in all—a remedy for which it is scarcely in the power of medicine to offer, although a temperate regimen, (avoiding the excitement of violent exercise or spirituous liquors,) and wholesome air may so far palliate, as to give a chance to the diseased parts, if not to recover their tone, at least to become no worse. But the disease known by "*palpitation of the heart*," vulgarly called "*a beating about the heart*," arises far more frequently from a debilitated state of the nerves and a vitiated state of the digestive organs. The heart is a muscle, and like others, is itself liable to nervous tremors. This disease is a frequent attendant upon females, and those young men who indulge in excesses. To remove it, the patient cannot expect that physic will be competent, although it will most materially assist. All excesses must be left off, and habits of health adopted; nourishing diet, a small portion of wine, early rising, cold bathing, gentle exercise, and air; in short all those remedies must be judiciously observed which shall be pointed out in the concluding part of our observations upon *Indigestion*.

MILK FEVER IN LYING-IN-WOMEN.

From an extraordinary accumulation of milk in the breasts immediately after child-birth, or from cold, a considerable degree of constitutional derangement often sets in, the patient becomes restless, thirsty, and hot; complains of head-ache, great stiffness and pain in the breasts, which increase alarmingly. In many cases this fever is produced by not putting the infant to the breast in proper time, thus allowing the milk to accumulate and distend the parts, and what is not an unfrequent consequence, the almost total obliteration of the nipple, which in one or two cases we have met with, remained after the fever had abated, and thus prevented the mother from ever being able to suckle her children. The child should be put to the breast very soon after its birth, in order to accustom the nipples to their office, even before the milk flows, and this is the most effectual safeguard against the milk fever. When, however, it is set in, the patient must abstain from fluids of all descriptions, and take a saline purgative; such as a mixture made of half a cup of senna tea, in which has been dissolved two drachms of salts and a little manna. She must be kept quiet, and if of a plethoric habit, must lose a little blood from the arm. The child must be put to the breast, or else the milk must be otherwise evacuated. During the fever the following draught should be given occasionally, two or three times a day, particularly if great thirst is present—it is cooling and refreshing.

Twenty grains of sub-carbonate of potass, dissolved in two table-spoons full of water sweetened with a little sugar; pour this upon a table-spoon full of lemon juice, and drink it while it is frothing.

The bed-room should be neither too hot nor too cold, nor should the patient be obliged to bear a load of blankets upon her; the diet should be gruel, and if she must drink, it should be in small quantities, and lemonade perhaps is the best. This fever is seldom attended with danger, although it sometimes leaves behind indurated and sore breasts—of which we shall next speak.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Scraped Potatoes applied to a Burn or Scald.

This has no effect except by the cold it conveys to the part.—Water is much better, which should be changed as often as the pain is felt returning.

A Dram to cure a Pain in the Bowels.

This is useful where the pain arises from flatulence or cholic, but if from inflammation, which is but too often the

case, it is poison; therefore considering the chances, it should never be resorted to except under the direction of a medical man; however in cholic or pains from other causes, except inflammation, the pressure made upon the abdomen rather eases the patient, while in cases of inflammation it increases it.—This may serve as a test, and should be resorted to before spirits be administered.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

An easy laxative Draught.

Of senna tea, a cup,
Of epsom salts, two drachms,
Of manna, two drachms,

Boil them a minute or two, and add a littl ginger.

A diuretic Pill.

Digitalis, twelve grains,
Of squill pill, two scruples,

Mix and make into twelve pills, one a dose. Good in all cases of dropsy, cough, and asthma, taken twice or thrice a week.

NATURE AND APPLICATION OF LEECHES.

The leech is common throughout Europe, inhabiting lakes and stagnant pools. The body is about three inches long, tapering towards the head, composed of rings, and capable of being very much lengthened and contracted. The colour of the back is dark olive, divided by four yellow or buff-coloured longitudinal lines, two of which are lateral, with a black line running through their centres; and the other two, which are on the upper part of the back, dividing it into three nearly equal parts, are broken with black. Within these lateral and upper lines are two others, which appear like chains of black and yellow; the belly is pale olive thickly maculated with black, or very dark-blue irregular spots: the mouth is triangular, placed in the centre of a horse-shoe sucker, which is under the head, and at the anal extremity there is a broad circular sucker, by which it attaches itself to different bodies.

Leeches are oviparous, all the ova are discharged in one involucre, near the surface and margins of pools, and are hatched by the heat of the sun. They do not cast their skin, as has been generally supposed, but, at certain times throw off a tough slimy substance from their bodies, apparently the production of disease, and from which they get disencumbered, by drawing themselves through the moss and the matted roots of rushes. During winter they remain almost torpid, hid amongst the thick net-work of aquatic roots which surround the pools.

Norfolk supplies a great part of the leeches which are brought to the London Market, some are taken also in Suffolk, Hampshire, Kent, Essex, and Wales, but many are imported from Bourdeaux and Lisbon. They are caught in spring and autumn, by people who wade into the pools and allow them to fasten on their limbs, or more generally the catchers beat, as they wade in, the surface of the water with poles, which sets the leeches in motion, and brings them to the surface, when they are taken by the hand, and put into bags. They come to the surface just before a thunder storm, and this is regarded as the best time for collecting them. They are best preserved in vessels half-filled with soft water, kept in an equal and moderate temperature (50° Fahrenheit) and covered over with a coarse cloth so as to admit the air. The water should be changed once a week, and all the dead or sickly leeches removed from the general stock, for they are subject to much disease and great mortality. Leeches which have been used should not be returned to the stock, till they appear to have completely recovered their health and vigour, which is known by their feeling hard and firm when handled. As we are ignorant of their proper and natural food, it is useless to attempt to feed them;* but in winter it would perhaps, be advantageous to put some moss into the vessel in which they are preserved.

Leeches appear to have been first used by Themison; they are applied in cases where local blood-letting is

* Dr. Johnson says, they live by adhering to, and sucking the fluids of fish, frogs, &c. but they take no kind of solid food.—*Treatise on the Medicinal Leech*, p. 61.

necessary, as in ophthalmia, and particularly to places where cupping-glasses cannot be applied. In some habits, where there is a disposition to erysipelatous inflammation, their bites, which are triangular, occasion a considerable degree of irritation, and œdematous swellings follow which are very troublesome; but, in general, they easily heal and occasion no inconvenience. It is sometimes exceedingly difficult to make them bite, which they never will do when they are sick; the best mode of applying them is to take them out of the water for some minutes before they are to be used, and to dry them well with a very soft cloth directly before they are applied; the part should be well cleaned with soap and water, then washed with a little pure water and made very dry. If there be any hairs on the spot, these must be close shaved; this method is found preferable to that of wetting the part with milk and sugar, blood, or any other matter. When they, nevertheless, will not readily fix, or where it is wished to apply them very exactly on a particular spot, as for instance, close to the angle of the eye, in ophthalmia, Dr. Johnson recommends to puncture the part with a lancet, then putting them into a large quill cut at both ends, applying the end at which the head of the animal lies to the part with the finger over the other end, is an excellent mode of making them bite. The quill is withdrawn after they are firmly fixed: they drop off spontaneously whenever they have gorged themselves with blood; and they may be separated at any time by sprinkling a little salt on the head. Very few leeches can draw more than half a fluid ounce of blood, and therefore, it is necessary, in order to encrease the quantity, to keep the orifices bleeding by bathing them with hot water. It has been recommended to cut off the tail of the leech, so as to allow the blood to be discharged as fast as it is sucked, the leech continuing to suck, notwithstanding this mutilation. After leeches drop off, the application of a very little salt, makes them disgorge all the blood they have sucked, and if they are immediately thrown into clean water, and this repeatedly changed for three or four times, they soon recover their health and vigour. Dr. Johnson advises the use of vinegar instead of salt, which is not apt to blister the lips of the leech as salt does, preventing it from sucking for some considerable time.

CASE OF DISEASED SPLEEN.

From a Military Surgeon's Note Book.

In the military hospital of St. Andero in Spain, a young man of thirty years of age, was a patient for intermittent fever. The fever soon disappeared—in fact it could not well be called an *intermittent;* but from the state of the man's spleen, as afterwards examined, was a partial fever arising out of this diseased organ. He became, as the hospital books show, what they called convalescent; that is, the fever left him, he eat heartily, slept well, but had a yellow tinge on the skin, swelled lips, great fulness of the left side, and great irregularity of the bowels In this state he was kept for a considerable time with no other treatment than attention to the bowels. He was visited by Mr. —— the Surgeon, one day as usual, and passed over without any particular attention, as he did not complain more than usual, for he was to all intents as well as the preceding days—He died in two hours after. On examining the viscera of the abdomen, his stomach was not diseased, but the liver was a little enlarged and hardened, while the spleen, which does not weigh more than 12 or 14 ounces in the healthy subject, weighed eleven pounds. This was one of the victims of the Walcheren fever, and had used an immense quantity of bark, which we believe to be the cause of the enlargement of the spleen.

EXORBITANT CHARGES FOR MEDICINE.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

The public are greatly indebted to you, for the manly exposure of

Quackery in your useful work, and I feel confident society will be very considerably benefitted by your exertions. Allow me to direct your attention to the mercenary, if not rapacious conduct of those who are called regular practitioners in medicine. In their charges they are generally exorbitant, and run up their bills to an unnecessary extent, regardless of the pecuniary circumstances of their patients; and the poor man, or those in the middle classes of society, with a limited salary of one or two hundred pounds a-year, are charged as high for draughts, &c. as the most opulent persons; and if a man having but a small income, be so unfortunate as to have a sickly wife or child, he may have to pay a tenth, or perhaps an eighth of his stipend for medicines, and many, myself among the number, have been so straitened in consequence, that they have never been able to extricate themselves from the embarrassing effects of their apothecary's bills.

I am well acquainted with the intrinsic value of medicines; this observation may be considered as not analogous to the subject, and it may be said, that apothecaries and others, ought to be remunerated for the great expenses in their education for the profession; but I will venture to say, that this consideration might, in many cases, be benevolently, and if not advantageously given up; and I am persuaded, it would reflect great honour on, and add much to the respectability of the medical profession, if the practitioners of it, would proportion their charges for medicine and attendance to the means of their patients, of which they might, I presume, pretty accurately judge by the appearances of the habitations and families of the persons they are called to attend. Some of the profession who have been so fortunate as to be able to ride in their coaches, may object to make a distinction in their charges to their different patients, for more reasons than one, and in this case, I would recommend those gentlemen, who are not so independent, to adopt the hint I have suggested, and I am fully persuaded that they would find it very much to their advantage, and it would undoubtedly contribute to the discouragement and discomfiture of those depredators the quack doctors.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.
G. G.

We agree with our correspondent in the opinion that there are many unprincipled men practising as apothecaries and surgeons, who not only dose their patients with superfluous medicines, but whose charges are exorbitant in the extreme.* We cannot altogether agree with him that the charges for medicine can be proportioned to the circumstances of the patient, by any law or regulation; for even if there were prices attached to the different forms of medicine, the roguish practitioner could cheat his patients by ordering an increased quantity. The public will always have to complain of such abuse, as long as the man who advises remedies in disease, has the *selling of those remedies;* and there is not an abuse in society, (not even excepting the quacks) that requires more to be considered by the legislature. In Ireland and in France, there are three distinct professions in medicine, namely, the physician, the surgeon, and the apothecary. The two former are paid a fee for their advice, and the apothecary makes up his prescriptions, and if he over charges, is liable to lose the patronage of the prescriber. By this means the profession in general of surgery is far more respectable than in England; the physician is also ensured of practice, and the apothecary cannot dose the public with unnecessary drugs. We confess that we feel disgust at our medical brethren, who so far forget the dignity of their profession, as to stick up over their doors, "*man midwife*;" nay some are so lost to every propriety and decorum, as to leave out the man, and place over their blue bottles, "MIDWIFE,"—Faugh! men who will descend to such meanness, will also

* We have known one of these practitioners to send in one day eleven draughts at 1s. 6d a blister 8s. and a gargle, 3s. 6d.—making (for one day) the sum of 1l. 8s. We invite those of our readers, who may be so imposed upon, to transmit us their bills, in order that, if they deserve comment, they may receive it.

put in an extra dose, and upon that dose an extra shilling. Some of our surgeons, however, are following the example of their Hibernian brethren, and leave off the dispensing medicines, and we rejoice at it. Let the public rely upon our advice; that they will economize both health and pocket by consulting a practitioner who writes his prescriptions for an apothecary, before one who makes up his own medicine. We shall again take up this subject, and shall argue more fully upon it.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

THE following lines from a Shanscreet work, entitled, "The Yazu Veda," were, I think, translated by Sir William Jones, and appeared in his works: they were forcibly brought to my mind, by looking at the plate, representing the arteries, prefixed to a late number of your journal; if you think them worthy of insertion, they are much at your service; I quote from memory; but I am pretty sure they are substantially correct. I remain,

Your very obedient servant,

NEB DIRPE.

8th March, 1824.

As a tree, the lord of the forest, even so, without fiction, is man; his hairs are as leaves, his skin, as exterior bark.

Through the skin flows blood; through the rind sap; from a wounded man blood gushes, as the vegetable fluid from a tree that is cut.

His muscles are as interwoven fibres; the membrane round his bones, as interior bark, which is closely fixed; his bones are as the hard pieces of wood within; their marrow is composed of pith.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

WHILE we are waiting for a few facts relative to the impositions of that canting old hypocrite, Gardner, the worm-bottler, we shall make a selection from our file of quack documents. We hope our country readers will look with an eye of common sense, upon what we now present them: if they do, such pests to society, as the advertising quacks, will soon dwindle into nothing. How can people be such arrant fools, as to have faith in the advertisements of such as Jordan, Goss and Co., Eady, Lamert, &c. and to give their gold for those humbugging balms—Rakisiri, Zura, and Gilead? Why any one may put into a phial, a little coloured tincture, label it, &c. and call it "a balm," tacking to it some nonsensical name, and an enormous price. Yet John Bull, who looks with such an economical scrutiny into his personal expenditure, will squander his wealth to such robbing humbuggers! The following advertisements are taken from country papers, and they are certainly calculated to lead the simple astray. We could quote *paragraphs* from certain country newspapers, in which the editors *stand pledged* for the virtues of those "balms:" are they not therefore aiding and abetting the fraud? *Advertisements* do not make the editor of a paper responsible, but puffing paragraphs for quack medicines, seeming to have emanated from the editor, disgrace a public journal. We could mention one in the west of England, that not only puffs the quacks, but permits their nostrums to be sold at its office.

Let us begin with Eady's advertisement:—

"*Quid est veritas? ait Pilatus deridens.*" But Pilate did not stay for an answer.

To the Editor of the Bath and Cheltenham Gazette.

SIR,

PERMIT me, through the medium of your paper, to offer a few preliminary remarks on the usefulness arising to society from advertising the cure of certain maladies, by a particular description of medical practitioners, who are frequently stigmatised with the epithet "disinterested impostors." There is a line of distinction to be observed, which appears evident to me, and I think would do so to others divested of prejudice; that is, were the advertising practitioner a conscientious man, unsullied by avarice, always bearing Truth as his motto, and who makes use of an advertisement as a vehicle to bring forth the objects of indiscretion, that pine in misery, and blush at the thought of their case being known to their family

practitioner; and those unhappy objects are brought forth, and restored to health, when they might have been sacrificed or left to wander their days in wretchedness. An instance of which I beg leave to annex in a letter addressed to *Dr. Eady*, 38, *Dean Street, Soho, London.*

SIR,

"WHEN I have reflected upon your kindness, humanity, and liberality to me, in my distressed, afflicted and forlorn situation, when, after suffering for six months excruciating tortures I cannot describe, and which had baffled all the medical assistance I had applied to for relief, and when I was hopeless from the inefficacy of medicine taken in vain, to assuage inflammation still increasing, which was succeeded by gangrene, mortification, and at last death staring me in the face; at this period of my disorder, I anticipated at no great distance my dissolution as inevitable, with all the attendant horrors which death presents to the human mind, embittered by the lacerating reflection, 'Blame thy foolish self.'—I say, when I reflect on such exertion, courtesy and liberality, when I had no hand to assist, no friend to console, no means of support against such a malignant disorder as that which I laboured under, and remember that to your personal exertion, as far as human aid is concerned, I am at this moment indebted for the life I now enjoy, and for the health I am so fully in possession of, I cannot but feel I am acting ungrateful to you in not publishing my case to the world, or speaking in a more public way of your benevolence to me than I have.

Ah, Sir! 'conscience makes cowards of us all.' But still I have thought a plan might be devised, in which this object, to me so desirable, might be accomplished, and the benefit, not only to others but to yourself, be felt as extensively as I wish it; and therefore if you think proper in any way to mention my case, so far as to save me all the pain reflection must produce on such a subject, I shall only feel I am doing part of a duty I owe to you, (and a small part indeed I acknowledge it is) for were I to live ages, and experience more than I have ever done of the contending circumstances of this life, I am assured that nothing could efface from my memory, or cheer my spirits more, than the remembrance of a name which can cease to be dear to me only with my life.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely, ——

To Dr. Eady, "

38, *Dean-street, Soho.*

—There is an advertisement from an impudent wall-chalking dealer in pins and tapes!—Now for the "Rakasiri" rascals:

"CORDIAL BALM OF RAKASIRI. ANOTHER remarkable cure effected by the above justly-celebrated medicine:—LONDON TO WIT.—Frederick Heiffield, of No. 5, Robert's place, Commercial-road, in the county of Middlesex, maketh oath and saith:—That he was most dangerously afflicted with an asthma; his difficulty of breathing was so great that he could scarcely speak, and he was confined to his bed for a length of time, without the least hope of recovery, when he was fortunately recommended to take Dr. Jordans' Cordial Balm of Rakasiri, or Nature's Infallible Restorative, which restored him to perfect health in one month.

(Signed) FREDERICK HEIFFIELD.

Sworn at the Mansion House, this 25th day of January, 1817, before me, Matthew Wood, Esq. Mayor.

Prepared only by Drs. C. & J. Jordan, of the Surrey and West London Medical Establishments, No. 9, Great Surrey Street, Blackfriars Bridge, and 60, Newman Street, Oxford Street, London. In Bottles, of 11s. each, or two quantities in one for 20s. or four quantities in one family bottle for 33s. duty included, by which one 11s. bottle is saved. This inestimable Medicine will keep in all climates, and may be had of the Printers of this Paper, Heaton and Baines, Leeds.

☞ Drs. Jordan expect, when consulted by letter, the usual fee of a One Pound Note, addressed—Money Letter, Drs. C. and J. Jordan, West London Medical Establishment, No. 60, Newman Street, Oxford Street, London.—Paid double Postage."

Thus much for "DOCTOR" Jordan, a common hawker of pencils about Hampshire! This fellow, since we handed him up, has taken to travelling, setting up at the head inns, and then *prescribing* his Rakasiri. A man of the name of Beasely, of Birmingham, has written a deplorable case to us.—The way in which this Jordan imposed upon him was by dropping a little of his "balm" into the patient's water, and as the former, he took care should contain some alkali, it precipitated a sediment in the latter. This astonished the poor man, and he bought the nostrum at the rate of 50s. per ounce. The case may be

soon at our publishers. Now for the opposition "balm;" but first let us look to the following letter.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

SIR,

THERE is a notorious quack at Bristol, a descendant of that fellow *Lamert*, whom I hope you will hold up: he is a son of that noted quack, and sports his carriage (a decent gig) and servant in livery. This fellow has the audacity to profess the cure of all disorders. Some years back, he was at Sheerness, in Kent, where I was then residing, and knowing him to be an impudent, as well as an ignorant quack, I prevailed (for a test of his ignorance) upon a poor man to wait on him with a curious sea weed, saying he was very ill, and that he vomited up this strange thing. Lamert said, he had once a very similar case, and he would give him a bottle of stuff, and box of pills, that would certainly cure him. The *patient* of course laughed most heartily at the doctor, and returned to me and my friends, informing us of his adventure: this became very shortly the general laugh, and the fellow was obliged to decamp. I saw him—the very man — as I before stated, smothered in powder, and dashing with more consequence than an M.D. lately at Bristol!! you will find, as several of your subscribers reside at Bristol, you will be doing them a service, and probably they may be enabled to hand you some further account of frauds, &c. by this ignorant, impudent quack.

Your obedient servant,

M. A.

March 9th, 1824.

P. S. This fellow has found out a *Balm of Zura*, and the enclosed is his advertisement.

"BALM OF ZURA; OR, PHŒNIX OF LIFE.

"THIS great *re-animater of nature*, has been proved, by a most extensive private practice, to possess such efficacy as justly entitles it to universal approbation. It is a *perfect restorative* in all nervous disorders, head-aches, weaknesses, lowness of spirits, dimness of sight, wanderings of the mind, vapours, and melancholy; all kinds of hysteric complaints, asthmas, paralytic affections, and a certain preventive of the gout. It is extremely salubrious in nausea, flatulencies, and obstructions; and is admirably calculated to relieve broken and decayed constitutions, when *every other medicine has totally failed!*

TO DR. LAMERT.

London Medical Establishment, Queen Square.

DEAR SIR,

"I AM happy to inform you, that your medicine is doing wonders with my old *gouty limbs*. At first I was afraid I should be disappointed, as I had been before in the trial of innumerable medicines, but I was soon convinced I was "reckoning without my host," my knees began to look less inflamed, and the swelling greatly subsided; but O! what a relief did I experience in my *ancles*: sometimes they felt as though they were pressed together with wedges, now, they swell but very little, and the pain *is a heaven to the tortures I used to feel*. The perspiration used to roll in torrents from my forehead, from the excessive agonies I felt, but now, if I am afraid of a slight return, I immediately have recourse to your truly divine *Zura*. When like the Angel of mercy, it immediately either wards off the detestable enemy entirely, or mitigates its attacks; you know it is but "young days" with us yet, and I cannot expect to get well all at once, but if I improve as I have these last three weeks, I feel quite assured that the *monster* of now nearly *twenty-two years* standing, almost incessant in its visitation, will be totally destroyed. So many friends have been to visit me in consequence of what we call a *wonderful recovery*, that I am sure you will not want for any recommendation, and believe me, my dear Sir, that the first journey I make from my house, these last six years, shall be to thank you for the benefit you have conferred on,

Dear Sir, yours,

J. W. WILKINSON, ESQ.

Circus, Bath, July 17, 1823.

(There's a rascal for you!)

"In bottles at 4s. 6d. 11s. & 1l.—one 11s. bottle contains three at 4s. 6d. and that at a pound six times as much, whereby is a saving of seven shillings, duty included.

☞ Beware of imposition, as none are genuine but where the *sole Proprietor's* name is blown on the bottle; sealed with the initials of the Doctor's name on the cork, and enveloped in the Asiatic arms and directions."(!!!)

Sold by the Printers of this Paper and J. Heaton, Leeds; and may be had of all respectable Medicine Venders in Town and Country."

This Lamert is nephew to the Spital Fields quack of the same name. But we need scarcely find fault with the country folk for being gulled, when London is duped by such matchless audacity as the following:

" Domus et placens uxor —Hor.
Thy house, and in the cup of life,
That honey drop, thy pleasing wife.

" Socrates, by his Discourse on Marriage, so enraptured his auditors with the subject, that the married men flew to their wives, and the bachelors hastened to be wedded; and " The Spectator " has affirmed, that the word " Wife " is the most agreeable and delightful name in nature. The sacred institution, then, of marriage, compasses the desideratum of our enjoyment: teeming not only with happiness on earth, but disposing the soul itself to harmonize with bliss hereafter. Previous, however, to entering into this hallowed obligation, it becomes an imperative duty, not only to regulate the passions, but to cleanse the grosser nature from those impurities, which the freedom of unrestricted pleasures may have entailed upon it. To the neglect of such attention are attributable many of those hapless instances, which, while they excite the commiseration of the beholder, should also impress him with the fear of self reproach. Luxurious habits will effeminize the body—a residence in the tropics will relax the elastic fibre—but more especially does the premature infatuation of youth too frequently compromise the natural dignity into a state of inanition, from whence the agonized sufferer more than doubts the chance of relief. To all such, then, we address ourselves, offering hope—energy—muscular strength—felicity; nor will our advances appear questionable, sanctioned as they are by the multiplied proofs of twenty years successful experience. The easy cares of married life are sometimes disturbed by the suspension of those blessings which concentrate the nuptial wreath—for the female habit is often constitutionally weak — yet it can be strengthened, and deficient energy improved into functional powers. In every case of syphilitic intrusion, as well as in every relaxation of the generative economy, we pledge our ability to cure speedily and with effect. Earnestly solicitous to expel the unfeeling empyric from the position so presumptuously taken up, we deviate from general principles with less hesitation; and confident in our own honourable integrity as Members of the College of Surgeons, we refer the suffering community of either sex (especially those entering into matrimonial life) at once to our house, where daily attendance is given for personal consultation; and letters from the country are immediately answered: these must contain a remittance for Advice and Medicine, which can be forwarded to any part of the wo ld, however distant.

GOSS and Co. M. R. C. Surgeons, 11, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London.—Private door round the corner.

This swindling concern state themselves to be members of the College of Surgeons; but mark, they do not say *what college;* and at the bottom, they would have the public to think that " M. R. C. Surgeons " meant " *Members of the Royal College of Surgeons*" but that cannot be, for they are not members of any college: no such persons are in existence as " Goss & Co "—it is all from first to last a " dead " swindle. The M. R. C. may be well interpreted thus—MURDERING, ROBBING CHARLATAN.

We have not space for the advertisement of Lynch the black.* Feed the brewer's draymen, or Mrs. " soothing " Johnson, the apple stall woman, but we must squeeze in the following as a good comment upon all:—

THE QUACK DOCTOR'S SPEECH.
TO THE CREDULOUS MOB.
Supposed to be spoken by the famous Lord Rochester.

GENTLEMEN,

" I Waltho Van Clauterbank, high German doctor, chemist and dentrificator, native of Arabia Deserta, citizen and burgomaster of the city of

*This fellow designated himself " Doctor " in his advertisements, until our Annals of Quackery appeared: he now modestly drops it.

Brandipolis, seventh son of a seventh son, of an unborn doctor, of about 60 years experience, having studied over Galen, Hippocrates, Albumazar, and Paracelsus, and now become the Æsculapius of this age, having been educated at twelve universities, and travelled through fifty-two kingdoms, and been counsellor to the counsellors of several monarchs, natural son of the wonder-working chemical doctor, Signior Hanesio, lately arrived from the farthest part of Utopia, famous throughout all Asia, Africa, Europe, and America, from the sun's oriental exaltation, to his occidental declination, out of mere pity to my own dear self and languishing mortals, have by the earnest prayers and entreaties of several lords, dukes, and honorable personages, been at last prevailed upon to oblige the world with this notice.—

"That all persons, young or old, blind or lame, deaf or dumb, curable or incurable, may know where to repair for cure, in all cephelagias, paralytic, paroxysms, palpitation of the pericardium, empysemas syncopes, and nasieties, arising either from a plethory, or a cacochymy, vertiginous, vapours, hydrocephalus, dysenteries, odontalgic, or podigarical, inflammations, iliac passions, icterical effusions, exanthematea, the hen pox, the hog pox, and the small pox, the ascites, tympanties, anasarca, and the entire legion of lethiferous distempers.

"Imprimis. Gentlemen, I have a never-failing styptic, corroborating, odoriferous, anodynous balsam of balsams, made of dead men's fat, resin, and goose grease, which infallibly raises demolished noses, and by its abstersive cosmetic quality, preserves superannuated women from wrinkles.

"Item. I have the true carthamorphra of the triple kingdom, my never failing heliogenes, being the tincture of the sun, deriving vigour, influence, and dominion from the same light: it causes all complexions to laugh or smile at the very time of taking it; it is seven years preparing, and being completed, *secundum artem*, by fermentation, cohobation, calcination, sublimation, fixation, filtration, circulation, and quidlibification, in balneo mariæ crucible, and fixatory, the anthaner, cucurbita, and leverbatory, is the only sovereign medicine in the world.

"This is Nature's Palladium, Health's Magazine; it works seven different ways, in order as nature itself requires, for it scorns to be confined to any particular way of operation, so that it effecteth the cure either hipnotically, hydrotically, cathartically, poppismatically, hydrogogically, pneumatically, or synecdochically: it mundifies the hypostragium, wipes off obstersively those tenacious conglomerated sedimental sordes, that adhere to œsophagus and viscera, extinguishes all supernatural fermentations and ebulations, and in fine annihilates all nostrophical, morbisic ideas of the whole corporeal compages. A dram of it is worth a bushel of March dust, for if a man chances to have his brains beat out, or his head chopped off, two drops (I say two drops, gentlemen) seasonably applied, will recall the fleeting spirits, reinthrone the deposed archeus, cement the discontinuity of the parts, and in six minutes restore the lifeless trunk to all its pristine functions, vital, natural, and animal, so that this, believe me, gentlemen, is the only remedy in the world.

"I have the chiefest antipudenda gragrian specific in Venus's regalia, which infallibly cures the French pox, with all its train of gonorrheas, buboes, shankers, and carnosities; phymosis, paraphymosis, cristallines, priapismus, candolomata, and regades, without baths and stoves; and that with as much pleasure as the same was contracted, so that it is worth any person's while to get this moodish distemper once a fortnight, if it is to be had for love or money, to enjoy the benefit of so diverting a remedy.

"I have the panchymogagon hermes trismegistus, an incomparable spagyric tincture of the moon's horns, which is the only infallible antidote against the contagion of cuckoldism.

"Besides my vermifugis pulvis, or antivermatical worm-conquering powder, so famous for destroying all sorts of them, incident to human bodies, breaking their complicated knots in

duodenum, and dissolving the phlegmatic crudities, that produce these anthropophagous vermin. It has brought away worms by urine, as long as the may-pole in the Strand, when it flourished in its primitive prolixity, though I confess not altogether so thick.

"Look ye gentlemen, I have it under the hands and seals of all the greatest Sultans, Sophys, Bashaws, Viziers, Chams, Serasquiers, Mufties, &c. &c. in Christendom, to verificate the truth of my operations, that I have actually performed such cures as are really beyond human abilities.

"I cured Prestor John's godmother, to the great admiration of all the court, of a stupendous doloure about the os sacrum, so that the old lady really feared the perdition of her huckle bone. I did it by fomenting her posteriors with a mummy of nature, alias pilgrim's salve, mixed up with the spirit of mugwort, tartagraphated through an alembic of christaline transfluency.

"Thence I was sent for to Sultan Gilgon, Despot of Bosnia, who was violently afflicted with the spasms. He came to meet me 300 leagues in a go-cart, but I gave him so speedy an acquaintance of his doctor, that the next night I caused him to dance a saraband, with fly-flaps and somersets.

"I restored virility and the comforts of generation to above 150 eunuchs, in the grand Seignor's Seraglio, and by a pair of prolific pills, lately caused a vintner's widow, who had been barren all her days, to conceive a man child in the 12th lustre of her age, without the help of her husband.

"I cured likewise the Duchess of Baramolpho, of a cramp in her tongue, and the Count de Rodomoytodo Correct, of an iliac passion, contracted by eating buttered parsnips.

"I also cured an alderman of Grand Cairo, who had been sick seven years of the plague, in 40 minutes, and by the like empyrical remedies, I lately cured Duke Philorix of a dropsy, of which he died.

"VENIENTI OCCURITE MORBO, down with your dust; PRINCIPIIS OBSTA, No cure no money; QUÆRENDA PECUNIA PRIMUS, be not sick too late.

"You that are willing to render yourselves immortal, buy this pacquet, or else repair to the sign of the Prancers, in vico vulgo dicto, Ratcliffero, something south east of Templum Dayeium, in the square of Profound Close, not far from Titter-Tatter-Fair, and you may hear, see and return re-infecta."

THE TREAD WHEEL.

WHEN the lash is applied to the cur he will snarl; it is as natural as a smile from the flattered. We have had many snarling letters lately from the *Quacks*, and the *women-haters*, who delight in seeing females at the Tread-mill; and, as a specimen, we insert the following, which we received on the 16th, bearing the Bristol post-mark, and which will amuse our readers as much as it did ourselves. It will point out one moral delinquent and blotter of humanity (for no doubt he is one of the party) writhing under his just punishment. All the arguments of this intemperate *Sun* of Logic are assertions, and his points scurrility: however, the essay shows us that our labours have not gone without their effect.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I HAVE read all that you have written respecting the employment of females at the tread-mill, and will venture to assert that in ignorance, falsehood, quackery, and nonsense, you have far exceeded all that has been done or written by Messrs. Twynam, Eady, Cameron, Johnson, and all the host of impostors, by whom the people of this country have been gulled during the last twenty years—always excepting Sir John Cox, Hippisley* and his worthy associate in quackery and trash. I do not mean to enter at present into any detailed exposition of your falsification of facts: for that purpose, it is quite sufficient to refer your readers to

* Sir J. C. Hippisley and Dr. Good, must have as just an opinion of the writer's courage as of his arguments and gentlemanly language, for the letter is *anonymous*.—ED.

the official answers to Mr. Peel's circular letter, and to the reports of the Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline. But I do wish to expose your presumption and utter ignorance of the law of the land respecting the subject, on which you are undertaking to instruct your readers; every one of whom, in all probability, knows much more about it than yourself. You have thought fit to characterize as cruel and tyrannical the conduct of those magistrates, who, in committing to prison women convicted as lewd and disorderly, have sentenced them to *hard labour*, thereby plainly and necessarily implying that in making such commitment, the magistrate has it in his option and discretion, whether he will add the sentence of hard labour or not; for, of course, if he have no option, he is, as to that point, under no responsibility. Now the truth is, that the statute, which governs the conduct of the magistrate in this case gives him no such option or discretion;* they are absolutely imperative; and a commitment, which should send a woman to prison for the offence above alluded to, without at the same time directing her to be kept to hard labour, would be as contrary to law, as all your statements of facts are contrary to truth and common sense.

As this letter convicts you of very gross ignorance, I dare say you will not publish it. As to that matter I care very little—but I warn you not to garble it; for if you do, you may rely upon it's appearing in its true shape in some other journal. There is another line of conduct, which, though not very likely to serve its turn, will be perfectly consistent with every thing you have already said or written upon this subject—and that is, to give a flat denial to my statement of the law. From neglecting or setting at defiance the statements of the official communications to the Secretary of State, and the reports of the excellent Committee for the Improvement of Prison Discipline, it will be an easy and natural step to impugn the editions of the statutes at large of falsifying the laws of the land.

I am, Sir,

A HATER of FALSEHOOD.

* We neither asserted nor supposed that magistrates had any power to remit the labour where the statute directed it; but in cases where the health will not permit labour, they *have* the power—such might have been fairly exercised in the cases of the women suckling infants at Guildford—to which, no doubt, the writer alludes:—Our arguments have not been directed against the magistrates for *committing*; but for INTRODUCING *and* SUPPORTING, THROUGH THICK AND THIN, the APPLICATION of the *Tread-wheel to females*.—ED.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

SOME of the papers of this week have been led into an error in copying a French puff for their surgical knowledge and improvement. They say that Mons. Somebody has invented a method of curing the stone, by introducing an instrument into the bladder, breaking down the stone into powder, and then drawing it off, by which they state, the danger of cutting is avoided.

To this we say that *no such thing is possible*—the structure of the urethra forbids it, and it requires no acute mechanical eye to see the total impossibility of such a process. The mistake, we think, has arisen from the practice of breaking down the stone with a sharp forceps when it happens to be too large for the wound through which it is to be extracted, in the operation of lithotomy. However Monsieur Guerin, jun. of Bourdeaux, has made a great improvement in the operation, and we have seen him perform it most dexterously. The pudic artery in his method is perfectly safe.

Mr. Conolly. In the case of this unfortunate gentleman, *The Times* newspaper, states as an aggravation of his crime, that he "shot Grainge dead." Now he only shot him in the arm; and we do not know but the very manner in which the operation of amputating the arm was performed *caused the man's death*. Had Grainge's finger been shot, and death followed, it would not appear so aggravated a case, yet death is more likely to follow a shattered finger, (from lock-jaw) than a gun-shot wound of the upper arm. In the hundreds—nay thousands of amputations of the arm which were performed in the Peninsula by our military surgeons in the field, and under many disadvantages, scarcely *one* death occurred from the operation

when it was *simple*, as in Grainge's case. We ourselves, with Dr. R. Venables, amputated *both arms*, close to the shoulder, in a case where the bones and muscles were literally shattered to pieces, and yet the man was sent home cured in three weeks afterwards to Woolwich, where he now is. A set of country apothecaries operated upon Grainge. The consequence was, death: had he recovered, Conolly would not have been indicted; but death follows *the operation*, and he is transported for life! We should be glad to hear a minute detail of this amputation. Were all the arteries tied? was there hemorrhage after it? how long were they operating and did they operate at a proper time? It is a pity that such a dreadful sentence as Conolly has received, should after all, turn upon the merits of a couple of country apothecaries.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. O. Thrawl-street, omitted to send the number of his address, therefore could not be replied to. A sufferer indeed from Caton, must send a fully described case and an address. Z.Y.A. must also tell us where to address him.

A. W.S. will oblige by accepting our apology.—Press of business was the cause.

ZENO *may take fifteen grains of jalap, and ten of ginger, occasionally, for a fortnight.*

The Quack that wrote us the letter about the Washerwoman, &c. amused us much: the spelling was exquisite.

S. A.—Labori—M. H.—B—T. B. Grove-house.—And H. M. R. Manchester, must send word where we may—address to them.

An Enemy to Imposture.—B's favour shall appear in our next.

C. G. H.—N. Brown and Idis, have obliged us—we shall notice those quackeries in due time—the enclosures will add considerably to our quack document.

Our readers are requested to oblige us with authentic information, relative to "Doctor" M'Donald, the wholesale quack, and the "Military Medical Board," near Newington Church. Does not a man of the name of PRICE *belong to the latter?*

E. of Greenwich, should apply leeches, and rest for at least ten days, he has been miserably treated.—After the application of leeches—nothing but rest and a saline purgative are necessary.

A father is informed that the case of his daughter is by no means so alarming as he thinks. The disease in all probability, will be removed in less than a month. The Medical man who attends is doing perfectly right.

P. O. W. has been written to, addressed to the Post Office at Carlisle.

J. M. B.—Hackney-Wick, will find a letter at our publishers.

Honestus has obliged us—The soothing syrup, like that of Mrs. Applestall Johnson's, is destructive. If the child gets well,—"O! it was the soothing syrup." If it dies.—"O! it was the cursed teeth! poor baby."

Grey head, we fear, must submit, like Lord Byron, to the envious hand of silver.

W. and M. A C. are informed that Mrs. Johnson's soothing syrup is poison—let them rub the gums with vinegar and honey, once or twice a day, and give the child a warm bath.—It will do very well.

Correspondents applying for advice, should affix an address in case a private communication may be necessary.

Communications (Post Paid) to be sent to the Editor, at the Publishers. London: published by JOHN KNIGHT and HENRY LACEY, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

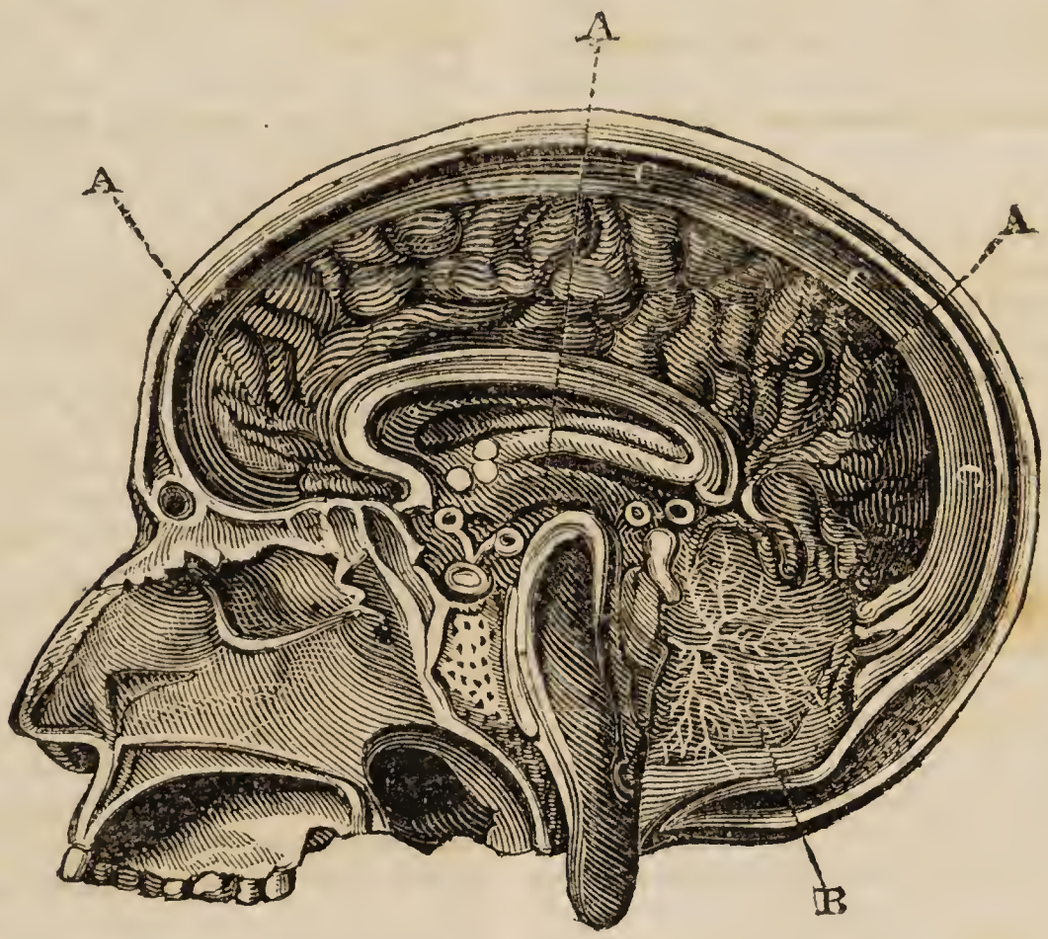
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 17.] SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



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THE BRAIN.

THE view of the brain which we present to our readers in our present number, is more intended to give a general idea of that organ than to anatomically illustrate it. With reference to phrenology, it will serve to shew to those who are unacquainted with the appearances of the brain, that the bone of the skull may have risings or protuberances to accommodate the convolutions which are represented in the cerebrum marked A.A.A. That portion of the brain marked B. the cerebellum, the light lines of which are designated as the *tree of life*, is supposed to have a different function from the cerebrum, and it may not be improbable that one is the organ of motion, and the other of thought.

A.A.A. The cerebrum.

B. The cerebellum.

C.C.C. A membrane partly dividing the cerebrum, and partly supporting the large veins or sinuses.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued —From Abernethy's Works.)

TREATMENT.

I SHALL now proceed to mention the plan which I have pursued in the treatment of these disorders, when they have been connected with surgical diseases: with what degree of success, the following cases will demonstrate. I do not feel altogether competent to give full directions relative to this subject; because I have never attended to medical cases with that degree of observation which would lead me properly to appreciate the efficacy of different medicines, when administered either in their simple or compound forms. The subject is so important, that the public would be highly indebted to any practitioner, who would point out the varieties of these diseases, and the appropriate modes of cure. The method of treatment, which I have adopted, is simple, and founded on the opinions I have formed of the nature of the disease, and on physiological views of the functions of the affected organs. Believing the disordered parts to be in a state of weakness and of irritability, my object has been to diminish the former, and allay the latter. Believing also that the secretions into the stomach and bowels, upon the healthy state of which the due performance of their functions depends, were, in consequence of such disorder, either deficient in quantity or depraved in quality; I have endeavoured to excite, by means of medicine, a more copious and healthy secretion.

"It is the principal object of medicine to give strength and tranquillity to the system at large, which must have a beneficial influence on all its parts, and greatly promote the well-doing of every local disease. We cannot reasonably expect tranquillity of the nervous system whilst there is disorder of the digestive organs. As we can perceive no permanent source of strength but from the digestion of our food, it becomes important on this account that we should attend to its quantity, quality, and the periods of taking it, with a view to ensure its perfect digestion.

"First,—With respect to quantity: There can be no advantage in putting more food into the stomach than it is competent to digest, for the surplus can never afford nourishment to the body; on the contrary, it will be productive of various evils. Being in a warm and moist place, the undigested food will undergo those chemical changes natural to dead vegetable and animal matter: the vegetable food will ferment and become acid, the animal will grow rancid and putrid; this is only rendered evident occasionally, when a disordered stomach rejects some of its contents; then the teeth are roughened and set on edge by the corrosive qualities of the acid, and the throat feels burnt by the acrimony of the rancid oil. These effects, though occasionally made apparent, must constantly take place, unless by the digestive powers of the stomach the food is converted into a new substance, which is not liable to these chemical changes. Such new and irritating compounds may not indeed materially injure a healthy stomach, but cannot fail to be detrimental to one that is weak and irritable, as well as to the whole tract of the alimentary canal, and thus maintain and aggravate its disorder. Part of the food thus changed will be imbibed from the bowels, and render the blood impure, from which there is no outlet for various kinds of matter but through the kidnies; and this may prove a cause of foul urine, as well as of the presence of many substances in that fluid not natural to it, and be productive of serious diseases in the urinary organs. Observing the evils resulting from undigested aliment, we surely ought cautiously to guard against them by proportioning the quantity of our food to the digestive powers. Nature seems to have formed animals to live and enjoy health upon a scanty and precarious supply of food; but man in civilized society, having food always at command, and finding gratification from its taste, and a temporary hilarity and energy result from the excitement of his stomach, which he can at pleasure produce, eats and drinks an enormous deal more than is necessary for his wants or welfare; he fills his stomach and bowels with food which actually

putrifies in those organs; he fills also his blood-vessels till he oppresses them, and induces diseases in them as well as in his heart. If his digestion be imperfect he fills them with unassimilated substances, from which nutriment cannot be drawn, and which must be injurious. In proportion as the powers of the stomach are weak, so ought we to diminish the quantity of our food, and take care that it should be as nutritive and easy of digestion as possible. By adopting an abstinent plan of diet even to a degree that produces a sensation of want in the system, we do that which is most likely to create appetite and increase the powers of digestion. In how great a degree want effects these objects, is evident in those who have been obliged to fast from necessity, or have been much reduced from hemorrhage.

"Secondly,—As to quality: It is not my intention to discuss the question as to the nature of the food proper for mankind. When the stomach is weak, it seems particularly necessary that it should be nutritive and easy of digestion. I may further observe, that its qualities should be adapted to the feelings of the stomach. In proof of this proposition, numerous instances might be mentioned of apparently unfit substances agreeing with the stomach, being digested and even quieting an irritable state of stomach, merely because they were suitable to its feelings. Instances might also be mentioned of changes in diet producing a tranquil and healthy state of the stomach in cases where medicines had been tried in vain Neither can such occurrences excite surprise, for as digestion and the consequent tranquillity of the stomach depends on a proper quantity of healthy juices being secreted and commixed with the food, such secretions are likely to be produced by whatever agreeably excites it, and obstructed by whatever has a contrary tendency.

"Thirdly,—As to the times of taking food: It is evident that the intention of nature that we should put into the stomach a certain portion of food, the excitement of which inducing a secretion of gastric fluid, by its actions becomes digested. This office of the stomach being effected, it should be left in a state of repose till its powers are restored and accumulated, and this return of energy would in health be denoted by a return of appetite. It is probable that three hours may elapse in health before the digestion of a moderate meal is effected, so that the stomach is empty and in a state of repose. It is therefore reasonable to allot the same portion of time for the same purpose when the organ is disordered, whilst we have diminished the quantity of our food in order to proportion it to the diminished powers of the organ; yet, instead of pursuing this rational plan of diet, many persons are taking food every third or fourth hour, pleading in excuse for such conduct that they cannot do without it. The truth is, that when the stomach is disordered, the exertion of digesting a single meal after its excitement and efforts have ceased, is productive of sensations of languor sinking and inquietude, which ought to be calmed or counteracted by medicines and not by food, for a second meal cannot be digested in this state of the stomach. We also often teaze and disorder our stomachs by fasting for too long a period; and when we have thus brought on what I may call a discontented state of the organ, unfitting it for its office, we sit to a meal and fill it to its utmost, regardless of its power, or its feelings. The rules then for diet may be thus summarily expressed: we should proportion the quantity of food to the powers of the stomach, adapt its quality to the feelings of the organ, and take it at regular intervals of six or seven hours thrice during the day. It would be well if the public would follow the advice of Mr. Addison, given in the Spectator, of reading the writings of L. Cornaro, who having naturally a weak constitution, which he seemed to have ruined by intemperance, so that he was expected to die at the age of thirty-five, did at that period adopt a strict regimen, allowing himself only twelve ounces of food daily. By this plan of diet he lived to more than one hundred years: and it was delightful to observe the tranquil, cheerful and energetic state of mind that accompanied his bodily health

and in a great degree induced it. Cornaro found that as the powers of his stomach declined with the powers of life in general, that it was necessary he should diminish the quantity of his food, and by so doing he retained to the last the feelings of health.

(To be continued.)

INFLAMMATORY SWELLING OF THE BREASTS OF WOMEN.

We stated in our last number, when treating on milk fever, that neglecting to put the infant to the breast in due time, or the non-evacuation of the milk by other means, produces very frequently inflammation of the breasts, which often terminates in hardness and ulceration, and remains for a long time, causing great pain and trouble. Practitioners differ in their opinions upon the modes of treatment in this disorder, some holding that in all cases the inflammation should be put back, while others think that every means should be resorted to, to make the tumour suppurate, lest, as they say, that schirrous indurations and cancer may be induced. This latter opinion, we think, is like pulling down a house because we fear it may catch fire. Every inflammation should be treated with a cooling and antiphlogistic plan at first, for thus we counteract the febrile symptoms which attend such disease, and if we do not altogether put an end to it, yet we lessen the violence of its action. As to bringing forward or putting back tumours in general, by topical applications (with the exception of leeches and blisters) we confess that we are sceptical. If a tumour is to be discussed, it must be done by constitutional means, such as bleeding, purging, and other evacuations, and we think that fomentations or poultices—where these means are employed—will not tend one jot to bring forward the suppuration ; on the contrary, they will accelerate the dispersion of the tumour, if the means employed upon the constitution be sufficient for the purpose. Therefore, when practitioners say that the tumour ought not to be put back, and at the same time administer purgatives and antifebriles, their opinions are one way, and their actions another. If they would strictly follow such opinion, they should not permit either laxative medicines or venesection, but leave the patient to the mercy of the fire, or perhaps add fuel to it by stimulants, and thus endanger, life by inducing such a degree of fever as it would be difficult to subdue. In inflammatory tumours of the breasts discussion should be attempted, by all means, as early as possible; and this is to be done by the application of leeches to the parts, after which cloths, dipped in the following lotion, are to be repeatedly applied cold—

Of camphorated spirit an ounce,
Sugar of lead a scruple,
Distilled vinegar six ounces.—Mix.

The patient must take a saline purgative, which is to have a full effect. She must avoid stimulating food or drink, stay in bed, and take every four hours two table-spoons full of the following mixture—

Of antimonial wine, a drachm and a half,
Of common water four ounces.—Mix and sweeten with a little syrup.

The milk must be evacuated whenever the accumulation takes place, which will be often necessary two or three times a day, and when the breasts are so much swelled as to render it impossible to do it by the nipple alone, the glasses made for the purpose must be employed; however, care should be taken to avoid producing pain as much as possible.

If, notwithstanding this plan, the tumour should proceed toward suppuration, that process must be assisted by warm fomentations of camomile flowers and water, and poultices changed every three hours, the fomentations to be used immediately on the removal of each poultice, and the patient may leave off the other medicines. The tumour will frequently open of itself, and after this has taken place, the poultices and fomentations must be continued until the swelling recedes. When this object is accomplished, a dressing of lint with some simple ointment should be laid upon it, and repeated twice a day. If the tumour becomes

enlarged a second time, and the breast becomes hardened, it should be rubbed gently three or four times a day for a quarter of an hour each time, with camphorated liniment.

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

This disease is a convulsive action in the muscles, mostly of one side, and principally the arm or leg, or both. This action appears to the byestander to be voluntary, and the impression is that the person suffering from it is, practising some antic movements, as ridiculous dancing, or moving of the arms in a grotesque manner. Whenever the patient attempts any motion of his will, some opposite muscles are involuntarily brought into action, and thus is produced unexpected movements of the body. The disease generally attacks between the ages of ten and fifteen, and it arises from debility or irritation of the nervous system, brought on by either poor living or confinement, and bad air; or from worms, or poisonous substances. It also has arisen from violent affections of the passions, such as horror, anger, or fear; and it sometimes takes place from sympathy at seeing others in the disease, or by imitating them; hence in public schools it is not unfrequent.

The symptoms of the approach of this disease are a cold sensation up the spine of the back, obstinate costiveness, pain in the left side, and coldness of limbs. Sometimes the approach is marked by yawning, stretching, palpitations of the heart, tingling in the ears, giddiness, difficulty of swallowing, and head-ache; a lameness then takes place, and the patient drags the leg after him as if it were paralytic, nor can he keep his arm still; this appearance becomes most ludicrous to those who do not know that disease is the cause, and the laugh of the byestander makes the patient worse. Every species of odd gesticulation follow, and the articulation becomes as variable as the movements of the body. As the disease advances, the patient becomes weaker; his eye loses all its lustre, and general wasting sets in: the mind too is generally affected with deep depression, and uncontrolable laughter, or excessive weeping accompany it.

When the disease arises in children, it often, and most frequently, ceases about the age of sixteen or seventeen, and in grown up people it yields to a change in the mode of life. Although this disease may arise from many other species of irritation besides that brought on in the stomach and intestines by deranged digestion, yet the latter we think will be found to be the most common cause, as it is of most other nervous diseases. If we keep this in view the treatment must be principally that which is best calculated to restore the digestive organs, and through them the nerves. The bowels must be kept in a state neither too relaxed nor too costive, the shower bath must be used daily, after which the skin should be rubbed dry; bark may be given in this complaint, and the decoction, with a little of the tincture may be given three times a day, in the dose of two table spoonsful. To this form of the bark a little diluted sulphuric acid should be added, in such quantity as that the patient will take five drops in each dose. The whole range of antispasmodic medicines have been recommended, and also a solution of arsenic; but we think that the bark, with a moderate portion of wine, the shower bath, and a light nutritive diet, will be the most safe plan to adopt. Electricity should also be applied, and if the patient cannot sleep, four or five drops of the acetate of morphine will be attended with the greatest benefit. We would also recommend a blister on the nape of the neck, which should be repeated every week for three or four times. If this plan is strictly adhered to, there is nothing that will produce more benefit. Let the nerves be treated through the medium of the digestive organs; that is, the intent being to produce a wholesome digestion, and the disease will yield.

ODONTALGIA; OR TOOTH-ACHE.

The tooth-ache in general arises from one diseased tooth, although the pain seems to come from all: in bad cases, the causes are either cold or violence acting upon the nerve of a carious tooth; yet a pain similar to this fre-

quently arises from a rheumatic affection of the jaw itself. And in pregnancy it is a sympathetic affection. When a small spot appears upon the tooth, as it were eating it away, the person so affected should most particularly attend to the use of the tooth brush, in order to remove as frequently as possible the carious portions of it. When this spot extends, and penetrates into the substance of the tooth, the air and various acrid bodies get into it, and irritate the nerve; and when this takes place, it is usual to introduce a bit of lint dipped in either oil of cloves, nutmeg, or cajeput, or diluted sulphuric acid; but these remedies in some cases, do no good, and generally only palliate. Mr. Thompson says, that "a pill of camphor and opium, or a solution of camphor in oil of turpentine put into the hollow of a carious tooth, affords almost immediate relief in tooth-ache." We must confess that we see no remedy so good as the extraction of the tooth. To prevent a return of the disease, the hole should be widened by a dentist, and stopped up with leaf gold, or leaf lead, and thus the tooth may be preserved a long time, without aching, but strict attention must be paid to the daily use of the tooth-brush.

When the disease is rheumatic, the jaws must be rubbed with equal parts of spirits of camphor and liquor of ammonia, and a blister put behind the ears, on the same night giving ten grains of Dover's powder at bed-time. When the tenderness of the gums will prevent the patient from chewing his food, one of the following pills may be held in the mouth until dissolved.

Of powdered pellitory of Spain one drachm.

Mucilage of gum arabic sufficient to make them into twelve pills.

The best dentrifice for those with carious teeth, is decidedly charcoal; and the way to prepare it, is to burn a lump of charcoal in the fire; blow off the external powder, and pound the remainder finely in a mortar. This will supersede in wholesome efficacy, all the pompous powders sold in the shops.

MR. WILKINSON'S MODE OF DISCOVERING THE CAUSE OF DEAFNESS.

This gentleman, in his elements of galvanism, observes that deafness arising from a defect in the auditory nerve, may be distinguished from other causes in the following way: a sonorous body should be placed in contact with the teeth, and if the communication of sound be not thus more distinct, the defect is in the nerve—if on the contrary, the patient hears the sound better, the nerve is perfect, and the greater are the chances of cure.

DEAFNESS CURED BY TOBACCO SMOKE.

Tobacco smoke has been employed in the cure of deafness by many, and Mr. Grosvenor, surgeon of Oxford, states, that he has found it successful. The way of using it, is to fill the mouth with the smoke of the most powerful tobacco, then close the mouth, and hold the nostrils tight. A strong exertion is then to be made by the person to drive the smoke out through the nostrils, the exertion will force the smoke through the Eustachian tube into the ear. If a crack is felt in the ear, the hearing in all probability will return. Mr. Grosvenor himself was deaf, and when he tried the remedy, the third effort produced a crack in his right ear, and he immediately heard. If this mode will cure, it must be in cases of deafness of some standing. We shall speak more upon it when treating upon the disease.

TEST FOR DISCOVERING PREPARATIONS OF LEAD IN WINE.

Some dealers in wine are so far unprincipled as to adulterate that article with preparations of lead. The presence of that deleterious substance may be discovered by the following means: Put into a phial twenty grains of cream of tartar, and sixteen grains of sulphuret of lime, prepared in the dry manner: then fill the phial with water, and agitate it for ten or twelve minutes: when the liquor becomes clear, it is to be drawn slowly off into

another phial, and closely corked. It is then fit for use. Pour a little of this into a glass of the wine, and if lead be present, a dark coloured precipitate will fall down. We recommend this to every wine drinker who regards his digestion and his health.

CASE OF RECOVERY FROM MENTAL DERANGEMENT.

It has lately been reported that a woman who had laboured under insanity a long time, suddenly recovered her senses by accidentally falling into a well. This does not appear to us at all surprising, nor is it singular. We are of opinion, insanity in some cases may arise from a tumour or collection of fluid in the brain, and it is not unreasonable to think that a sudden fright might cause such an impulse as to break and disperse such tumour. A case occurred in the Lunatic Asylum at Bordeaux, in which a young man, who had laboured under mental derangement, recovered his senses in this manner. His keeper had permitted him to walk about the front court yard, which he was in the habit of doing, as the patient was harmless and tractable. In this yard he had been amusing himself, following flies, when an infuriated bull ran into the yard, tossed the maniac some height from the ground, and gored him considerably before he could be disengaged from the animal. The man was taken to the hospital, and underwent the operation of amputation of the left leg. He spoke scarcely a word from the time he met with the accident until two days after the operation, when he appeared so rational as to induce the physicians to examine him attentively. They asked him various questions, bearing reference to subjects which they observed were previously lost to his memory, all of which he answered most rationally, and seemed to feel fully his situation.

The man was immediately sent home to his friends, and remained perfectly well.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Oatmeal and buttermilk mixed to the consistency of butter, spread upon a cloth, and applied to a burnt or scalded surface—changed frequently.

This only acts by its cold—water is much better—vinegar and water better than all.

Syrup of poppies for cross children—poison.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A plaster to disperse Tumours of long standing.

Half an ounce of camphor,
Six drachms of asafœtida beaten into a mass, and spread on leather or linen.

This is recommended by physicians; but it will not always succeed.

Ointment to keep a Blister discharging.

Of savine leaves two parts—yellow wax one part—lard four parts. Melt the wax and lard together, then boil in it the savine leaves, and squeeze them through a cloth.

ASAFŒTIDA.—ITS QUALITIES, &c.

The root which yields asafœtida is a native of the south of Persia, chiefly growing on the mountains in the provinces of Chorasaan and Laar, where it is named hingisch. The root is perennial, tapering, and ponderous; when fully grown, the size of a man's leg; covered with a blackish coloured bark, and near the top beset with strong rigid fibres. The internal substance is fleshy, white, and abounds with a thick very fœtid milky juice. The stem is round, smooth, and striated; rising erect to the height of nine feet, and is about seven inches in circumference at the base, surrounded with six or seven radical leaves, nearly two feet long, bipinnate with alternate pinnacles, smooth, sinuated, lobed, or lanceolate, of a deep green colour, and fetid odour. The flowers are in plano-convex, terminal, compound umbels; the seeds oval, flat, foliaceous, of a reddish brown colour, rough, with three longitudinal lines, and have a porraceous odour, and a sharp bitter taste.

When the root is four years old, it is fit to yield the asafœtida, which is procured in the following manner; at the season when the stem and leaves begin to decay, they are twisted from

the root, which is then exposed by digging away the earth that surrounds it. It is left in this state, screened from the sun, for forty days, then the top is cut off transversely, and after forty-eight hours, the piece which has exuded is scraped off, and another transverse section is made. This operation is repeated three successive times, and then the root is allowed to remain untouched for eight or ten days before another section is made. The root perishes after it is exhausted of the juice. The juice collected from a number of roots, is put together and dried in the sun.

Asafœtida is brought into this country packed in cases, mats, and casks; that in cases proving generally the best. It is in irregular masses, adhering to each other, externally of a brownish yellow colour, and containing many little shining tears, of a whitish, reddish, or violet hue: the best is clear, and of a pale reddish colour, contains many of the white tears, and has the odour very strong.

Asafœtida has a strong, very disagreeable, alliaceous, fetid odour, and a bitter sub-acrid taste; but these qualities, particularly the odour, on which much of the efficacy of the drug depends, are much injured by keeping. It becomes brittle by exposure to the air, but is not easily reduced to powder, unless it be triturated with carbonate of ammoniac. Its specific gravity is 1·327. It yields all its virtues to ether and alcohol. It is diffused by trituration in water, forming a milky opaque mixture. The etherial tincture when evaporated on water, leaves a thick pellicle of brown fetid resin, and gives the water a milky appearance. In distillation either with water or alcohol, asafœtida yields an essential oil on which its odour depends. The proportions of its components are, gum 60, resiu 30, and essential oil 10 parts in 100; but Brugnatelli affirms, that the part which has been regarded as gum is extractive.

This gum resin is stimulant, antispasmodic, expectorant emmenagogue and anthelmintic: it is more efficacious than any of the other fetid gums, producing its effects in a shorter space of time, and is therefore beneficially given as an antispasmodic, in cases of hysteria, hypochondriasis, dyspepsia, flatulent cholic, tympanitis, and in nervous diseases. Its expectorant powers have been found useful in asthma, and hooping-cough, and it ranks high as a remedy in chloratic affections. We are informed that in India it is a successful native specific against the Guinea-worm. Its use is contra-indicated when the inflammatory diathesis is present, and owing to its stimulant quality, it is often combined with antimonials and nitre. It is used locally in the form of enema in worm cases, flatulent cholic, and in the convulsions attending dentition. and sometimes it is applied as a plaster for discussing tumours.

The dose is from five grains to a scruple, formed into pills, or diffused in water.

EXPERIMENT.

To shew an Object through an Opaque Body, without Optic Glasses or adventitious Light.

A HOLLOW glass globe of about six inches diameter was procured, and a quantity of broken sealing wax put into it, and held over a moderate fire till the wax was thoroughly melted. Then turning the globe about, that the wax might slip from one place to another, it had quickly got a pretty thick lining on more than half its inside: but it is to be observed that it was not on all places equally thick, it being impossible to manage the melted wax in such a manner as to make it so. Having done this, the globe was left until it was perfectly cold; then having attached brass screws to its ends, the air was exhausted from it: it was then placed in a machine, like a simple lathe, by which any degree of rotatory motion might be given to it; the hand being then applied to that end of the globe on which the sealing-wax was encrusted, the shape and figure of all parts of the hand was distinctly visible through the glass and wax. When the glass alone, without any such lining on the inside is made use of, it is obvious to any one how plainly a hand may be seen which is placed upon the concave surface of a glass globe all over enlightened with a strong flashing

light; it was just the same with the wax, perfectly transparent.

This lining, where it was spread the thinnest, would but just allow the light of a candle through it, but in some places it was at least one eighth of an inch thick. And yet in those parts the light and figure was as distinguishable as any where else; nay, though some parts of the sealing wax did not adhere so close to the glass as others, yet the light appeared on these, just as on the rest: the light was not discernible at all by looking at the end of the globe, where the wax was, but through the glass when it was transparent. Upon the admission of a small quantity of air into the globe, the light wholly disappeared in that part covered with sealing wax and not in the other.

Queries.—May not one body attract and, as it were, imbibe the effluvia of another contiguous body, especially when motion and warmth have made an easy passage for such effluvia into the interstices of that body, whose attractive power tends to fetch them thither?

The globe by attrition against the hand produced light,—it produces an eruption of luminous effluvia: may not the sealing-wax incorporate with itself this luminous effluvia emitted from the contiguous glass?

What is it to be pellucid but to transmit light received? and does not the wax thus transmit the luminous matter attracted and imbibed from the glass?

M. EDWARDS ON THE CARBONIC ACID GAS OF RESPIRATION.

Our indefatigable and scientific correspond,ent M. Edwards, has communicated to the Academy of Sciences the results of numerous experiments which he has made upon the exnalation of carbonic acid gas during the pulmonary expiration. He proves, by these, contrary to the opinion generally admitted, that the carbonic acid is not formed instantaneously in the lungs by the action of the air inspired, but that the gas is a genuine secretion of the blood, made in the respiratory organs. In his interesting experiments, M. Edwards reduces cold blooded animals to respire hydrogen gas perfectly pure. This process was persevered in during many hours, as in the atmospheric air. The result was, that after this lapse of time, the presence of a quantity of carbonic acid gas became evident, amounting almost to an equal quantity, as would have been furnished, if the respiration had been conducted in the open air. This result has been frequently suspected among the numerous conjectures to which the subject has given rise; and when the memoir is published, with all its details, we hope it will do much to clear up the difficulties connected with respiration,and the changes which the blood undergoes in the lungs. M. Edwards had previously discovered, thar azote absorbed in the circulation, and subsequently discharged from it; and that each of these actions is regulated by the constitution, habit, and circumstances of the individual, and by the influences to which he may be subjected, the absorption being to a small extent, whilst the exhalation of considerable, and the reverse.--*London, Mid-Tom.*

FOVILLE AND PINEL-GRANDCHAMPS ON THE BRAIN.

The researches and experiments of M. Flourens and Fodera, borrowed it seems in a great measure from Roland's work, "Saggio clinico sulla vera struttura del cervello, e sopra le fonzioni del sistema nervosa," have led to many interesting facts and observations on the functions of the particular parts of the brain. Among these we may mention a case related to the Academie Royale, by MM. Foville and Pinel-Grandchamps, of a female whose upper and lower extremities of the left side had been for several years completely paralysed. On examination they found an old extravasion on the right hemisphere of the brain, in the medullary space, outwardly, between the thalami optici and the corpora striata, and equally affecting these two parts. The authors stated this fact to confirm their former opinions on the seat of motion in the

upper extremity is placed in the corpus striatum. Hence it should seem to follow, they think, that when paralysis occurs at the same time in both the upper and lower extremity, the corpus striatum and the thalamus opticus will both be found morbid.

FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.—No. VI.

The Hospital, L'Hôtel Dieu.

If a vast hospital, peopled with patients, is the best school of surgery, we must say that the French ought to be the best surgeons; there is nothing in England can compare with L'Hôtel-Dieu for the number of its wards and beds. St. Thomas's Hospital contains only about four hundred and sixty beds, nor does Bartholomew's contain so many. Previous to the Revolution, the hospital of L'Hôtel-Dieu could receive nearly five thousand patients! But now they have wisely reduced this number to two thousand, or thereabouts, which still is nearly four times as many as St. Thomas's. So large a number of patients in one hospital, unless an adequate number of medical attendants, and a proper portion of room be allowed to each, must be attended with fatal disadvantages; and L'Hôtel-Dieu, before the Revolution, gave ample proofs of this. It was not an uncommon thing at times to see eight patients in one bed, and frequently two or three of them in the last moments of existence. It was a true receptacle for all miseries, and the finest subject for a painter of horrors to give an energetic delineation of all the different forms which death offered to his sad posterity. It was to the full extent what Milton thus describes:—

——————— Immediately a place
Before his eyes appeared, sad, noisome, dark,
A lazar house it seem'd, wherein were laid
Numbers of all diseases, maladies,
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds;
Convulsions, epilepsies, fixed catarrhs,
Intestine stones and ulcer, colic pangs,
Demoniac phrensy, moping melancholy,
And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,
Marasmus and wide-wasting pestilence,
Dropsies, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums,
Dire was the tossing, deep the groans, Despair
Tended the sick, busiest from couch to couch,
And over them triumphant Death his dart
Shook, but delayed to strike, though oft invoked
With vows, as their chief good and final hopes.
Sights so deform, what heart of rock could long
Dry-eyed behold? Adam could not, and wept,
Though not of woman born, compassion quelled
His best of man, and gave him up to tears
A space, till firmer thoughts restrained excess,
And scarce recovering words, his plaint renewed.

Paradise Lost, B. xi.

This was the scene which L'Hotel Dieu presented before the Revolution, but now the number of beds in each ward is so as to allow a free current of air, and a fair proportion of room to each bed. An active discipline is established, and every thing is carried on with as much regularity as in the great London Hospitals.

Monsieur Dupuytren is the principal surgeon of this establishment, and a more able officer of health, as well as a more exalted surgeon and excellent operator, is not to be found in Europe. At six o'clock in the morning, even the coldest part of winter, this surgeon visits the patients in the hospital; nor does he hurry, as many of our surgeons do, from bed to bed, but listens with attention to the complaints of the patients, and to the reports of the nurses. This visit occupies him until nine, when he retires to give his clerical lectures.

Monsieur Dupuytren, the worthy successor of all the great surgeons who directed the Hotel Dieu, is the professor the most followed at Paris. Nothing can relax his zeal and his exactitude—his pupils both extern and intern are ranged around him, and to them he details the symptoms of each patient, patiently and luminously.

Sometimes he performs his opera-

tions without bringing the sick from the ward, and in all cases he seems to regard more the interests of the patient than the pupil.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

GARDNER, *the Worm-bottler, Lance Corporal and Physician; Preacher and Picture-frame-maker; Wheel-turner and Electrician; Manufacturer of all sorts of Worms, from the active Ascarides to the monstrous Tenia Magna, Gunpowder, Calomel, and Sulphur — Halt-front! fire away! Pills at 3s. 9d.; 4s. 6d.; 10s. 6d. Thirty Boxes for a Guinea!!*

WHO has not seen Dr. Gardner's vermicular depots in Hollywell-street, Shoreditch, and Longacre? Who has not heard of this Sampson of physic? Few, indeed; but many there are who have never seen the "Doctor" without his cloak, or looked in upon his laboratory behind the curtain—many know no more about him than his impudent bills and advertisements set forth, and to those we beg to have the pleasure of handing him up in his proper attire, divested of the wig and mantle in which he has so long—so audaciously masqueraded himself.

The humbugging concern of which he is the projector and proprietor, consists of two shops, in which are set out to the best advantage a vast number of bottles, of various dimensions, containing worms of every species, natural and *artificial*, from the dimensions of an atom, to seven hundred yards in length! Animals with "ears like a mouse;" "caterpillars that, after having been regularly bottled for seven weeks, gnawed through two corks!!"* "A black *tenia*, as long as an eel, beautifully variegated on the back," &c. &c. These catch-gulls are displayed in the window, and labelled with a lying detail of whence they came—always by the effects of GARDNER'S MEDICINE—yet all these productions of art and nature, have been collected from different sources; either bought or composed, as a showman does his menagerie and museum of stuffed animals. The late "*mermaid*" was not a better hoax than Gardner's wonderful worms.

In the parlour, behind the shop, sits a prim-looking, smoothed-out, plaited-capped, old woman, watching through the glass the gazers outside the window, and reading the effect of the labels upon their simple countenances. As soon as a customer comes in she slowly rises, —hears with a grave aspect the application, and then goes through her threadbare lesson to the following purport:—"I see, Sir, you want the doctor."—"Why, Ma'am I want something to do me good."—"Ha! yes, yes, yes, I see you do; but the Doctor is now at chapel, offering up thanks to God, for the recovery of a lady that was on the brink of the grave. I see, young man, you suffer from worms." —"Very likely, Ma'am."—"Yes, yes, yes, here is a sort of reptile that is killing you;" and then taking down a bottle, wipes it clean, and shews the contents to the terrified patient. "This, Sir, is the horrid *wiper* that preys upon your entrails, and the person that this *effected*, was cured with a thirty-shilling box of the "Doctor's" pills, which we can now sell for a guinea, thanks be to God! There, Sir, look at its fourteen pair of horns, and its six-and-thirty mouths. It is called by physicians, the *wormus magnus*." The poor gull is frightened—he instantly demands whether the pills would do him good, and is assured by the Sybyl that a guinea box will restore him to health. The money is paid down, and the impostor is ready for the next customer. Should the "Doctor" chance to be at home, he goes through a similar jargon: but remains in a little room, which, he styles his laboratory, and pompously, though devoutly, receives the gull. The shopwoman, however, always pretends that the medical Saint is at *prayers*; and detains the patient a few minutes, during which time she plies his ear

* See Gardner's advertising bills.

with the wonderful ability of the "Doctor," and dishes him up already *half done* to her master! But now for the humbugger's history; and the following letter from a correspondent will set it forth,—we pledge ourselves:—authentically every syllable in it is strictly true.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

HAVING perused your humane and excellent pamphlet, I have been both pleased and profited; indeed the justice you have done the quacks is at once facetious and in strict accordance with the truth. I have not of late read any thing that has excited so many of my risible muscles; the pictures are indeed "from life and to the life," and who that has observed this gang of swindlers, but could wish his pen as able at delineation as yours?

The design of this letter was not however merely to compliment; but as you have invited information concerning this class of men, I think I should contribute my mite of information, and advance the general good, by holding up to your view the old humbug "Dr." Gardner, whose origin and history your publication brought to my remembrance. You informed your readers that he had been in the army, and while in the capacity of a private in a foot regiment,* he conceived a strong desire to dabble in medicine; finding, however, that his contracted means would not allow him to purchase drugs, his inventive genius suggested the medicinal properties of gunpowder as a great field for profound research and scientific study. It happened that a comrade in arms was sorely afflicted with "*rheumatis*," and Gardner feeling as humanely as ever he did, kindly undertook his friend's cure. Whether from the effects of his gunpowder pills, or from a second trial of a solution of gunpowder in gin, or from whatever other cause I know not, but the man recovered and at once established his fame as a medical man.

Now Gardner knowing that saltpetre and sulphur were two of the component parts of Gunpowder, he retained this valuable secret in his head, as a fact which would one day be of infinite advantage.

Being discharged from the army, he hired himself as a porter to a picture-frame maker in Long Lane:* here he lived in a room up two pair of stairs but finding that servitude was not so agreable while he had the means of eminence within his reach, he took a shop near Smithfield as a frame-maker and gilder, and at once united with that the more respectable calling of a "Doctor of Physic."*

For this purpose he published to the World many wonderful or pretended wonderful cures, before he had actually began to practice, and being rather short of that most necessary article cash, (which in a young beginner is natural) and having several squares in his windows wanting glass, he supplied the vacancies by papers neatly fitted in, and scrawled over with the astonishing benefits which this disinterested personage offered to the public.

Shortly after this, Mrs. Gardner being moved to sympathy at the sufferings of her own sex, set up as a rival to her lord, by offering to the ladies of England an article in wax called a nipple shield, with a lotion to accompany the same.

Thus the doctor and doctress went on for several years, partly making frames and partly making physic, and now and then a little electricity; but the vicinity of a place so

* Gardner belonged to a West-India regiment, from which he was disbanded at the close of the American war. He immediately after came to London, but was not in the Guards as has been imagined.—ED.

* The name of the picture-frame maker, which our correspondent alludes to, was Mr. Floot, he was also a turner, and Gardner was employed in turning a wheel. He became foreman to Mr. Floot, and afterwards on the death of the latter, became partner with the widow, but soon after set up in opposition.

* About this time he commenced methodist parson, and thus united physic, turnery, and divinity. He hired a large room, where he preached and established a weekly penny subscription to relieve (as he said) all cases of distress. He took care to make himself treasurer, and acted up to the proverb of CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME, in the fullest sense of the word. He then contrived to marry one of his flock, and reported to the world, she was "*a doctor's widow, possessing some rare and invaluable recipes.*" On the strength of this he went to Long-Acre, and began wholesale *worm catcher*, and advertised an electrifying machine, which he said was "*the largest and best in the world.*"—ED.,

vulgar as Smithfield could not long satisfy the growing pride of this growing pair, and forthwith they resolved to move in a more exalted sphere, and straightway moved himself, goods, medicine, gunpowder, nipple shields, lotions, "old women," and all to Hollywell Street, Shoreditch.

From this period nothing was heard of "Orange Rheumatic Pills," but the world was soon inundated with a detail of the astonishing effects produced by Gardner's "newly discovered pills;" and to give proof positive, his shops (for now he had one in Long Acre) were filled with bottles exhibiting the most astonishing proofs of their efficacy. Dr. G. had well thought that seeing is believing, and for this purpose had prepared "Tigers of the Stomach, Wolves of the Lungs, Tape Worms, all sorts and sizes, from six inches to two hundred feet!!" and indeed all that was calculated to gull such credulous folks as the English proverbially are.

From this period he has gone on deceiving the world with his professions of a desire to do good, and to give a plausibility to them, he has assumed a profession of religion. But profession and *possession* are two very different things; and when we see a man thus cheating the unwary, and that under the specious pretence of relieving pain and misery, without going farther, we are forced to conclude that it is but *profession.*

Although his pills were originally composed of saltpetre, brimstone, and cat-gut, he appears to have made a considerable discovery in the art of medicine; for a gentleman who supplies him with drugs, told me, not long since, that every now and then he sends to him, seven pounds of each—crude antimony, saltpetre, and sulphur—which are now the component parts of every pill manufactured by this infamous Quack.

If you have been into his shop, you may have observed a door, over which is written, in legible letters "Laboratory;"—now this is nothing more than a little closet, over the door of which this high-sounding word has been placed as a part of the system of fraud and deceit of which he is the agent.

If these facts will prove at all useful to you, in holding up to public view a most egregious impostor, I can vouch for their authenticity.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant.
AN ENEMY TO IMPOSTURE—B.

P. S. I do not know whether you are aware that Gardner can afford to keep a country establishment? How many must this man have gulled!!*

This is the history of Gardner. Had we the history of all his victims, what a frightful scene would it unfold! The case of one of his unhappy patients, however, is detailed in a former number of the *Medical Adviser*, and, if it is the duty of the legislature to protect the lives of its people, that case alone would be sufficient to warrant the exertion of its strong arm to crush such an evil as the quack doctors.

Gardner is the only one who has combined the profession of quack preacher and doctor; and were it not that he finds profit enough by the latter, he would exercise the former more frequently: he has left off preaching lately, but, like Eady, always compounds with his pills a certain portion of mock sanctity, which makes them go down more smoothly, and serves to gloss over his cheat. The most arrant pickpocket that ever was transported to Botany Bay, who, while exhorting, plundered you, could with as much propriety take up the practice of religion, as this old worm-dealer. Age stands upon his brow, undaunted at the approaching consequences of his life, and he persists even with more avidity in the exercise of his abominable artifices than when his head had poverty to excuse the callousness of his heart. Could this fellow, by his compounds of mercury and arsenic, produce any benefit to the thoughtless sufferer who applies to him, his artifices and his exorbitant prices might, in his conscience, receive some palliation and excuse; but the old worm, like those he pretends to destroy, crawls on in his odious course, untouched by the

* Better say "*killed.*" (Printer's Devil.)

medicine of remorse, and even in his last hour will gnaw the vitals from which he has been accustomed to draw support. To make religion the cloak for base purposes, is to make black sin more black; and surely none possesses more claims to this abominable character than one who holds a poisonous nostrum in one hand, and the Holy Bible in the other, while his tongue persuades the listener to rob his own pocket and health in the name of the Lord.

The cure of the disease called worms is only to be accomplished by a proper course of anthelmintics, and the constitution properly guarded against its recurrence by a well digested plan for regimen and medicine, founded upon the circumstances of the case. No general remedy can be employed, without the highest degree of danger. The disease of *worms*, also, is so often confounded with others, from the similarity of symptoms, that it requires a learned opinion to detect the disease. Now it is well known, that the greatest number of cases which go to Gardner, are those of indigestion, scrofula, and hypochondria; yet go with what disease you may, the "*worm medicines*" are recommended: the consequences are obvious: but even were the disease *worms*, as we said before, a general nostrum cannot hit, except by chance, and who will run the chance of being killed, merely to kill worms? Who will fire a bullet at a magpie while it is sitting upon his own cow's horn? A man must be devoid of sense that would do it: yet crowds of poor gulls are constantly putting this Gardner's worse-than-bullets into their stomachs. The public never hears of the consequences, nor does the Quack care for them: it is not upon reputation he lives, but upon new faces. Let us examine the following letter from one of our correspondents: this, and a former letter, which we above alluded to as published in a former number of our work, will shew the futility, and the *fatality* (for the other poor man died) of trusting to this horrible Quack.—

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SEEING some remarks respecting a fellow styling himself Dr. Gardner, I feel it my duty to inform you of a barefaced instance of his ignorance: A friend of mine Mr. S. D. of Barbican, butcher, (the name need not be printed in full unless necessary, but I give it you for your satisfaction,) being much troubled with worms, was persuaded to go to that learned man. He took his *stuff*, was very much reduced by it, and laid by for near two weeks, when finding himself no better after being so well drenched, he took the liberty of calling on the *soi-disant* Doctor Gardner to let him know how admirably his nostrums had succeeded:—The following conversation passed:

G. Well, how are you—how have you been since I last saw you?

D. Very bad.

G. Have you had any appearance of worms?

D. No, I have received no benefit whatever.

G. None! Gracious Heaven! None! What religion are you!

D. Protestant.

G. Protestant, hum—What Trade?

D. Butcher.

G Butcher, hum—Do you go to church regularly?

D. No.

G. Do you *carve* of a Sunday?

D. Yes.

G. God help you, it is an affliction of the Lord for your wickedness. I can do nothing for you, it would be impious to attempt relieving you; good day, I am sorry for you, young man.

D. So am I:—good day, Doctor.

VERITAS.

What a doctrine does such conduct set forth! That the sinner is not to be cured—he is unworthy! What blasphemy! Yet this old Pharisee has the following assertions in his bills:—"Dr. G. aged 70, and without enemies." *God has done much for him*, "thus becoming *under God* the happy instrument." &c. &c.—"Alas! there is no cure for death, all must die, for all have sinned." Thus impiously mixing the sacred name of the Almighty with two pages of lies, for the pur-

pose of imposing upon his fellow creatures!!

We feel it our duty thus far to comment upon this source of imposition, which has for many years cankered society, and sent unnoticed and unpunished, hundreds of poor suffering creatures to the grave or embittered their existence. One destroying nostrum compounded by the hands of a grossly ignorant wheel turner—a common labourer, and private soldier, has been dealt out without reference to age, sex, peculiarity of constitution, or quality of disease, for a series of years, and in the "Lady of Cities" where knowledge has set her seat! It is high time then that the imposture should be held up to the public eye, and we rejoice in having it in our power to do it.

(Macdonald next.)

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

HAVING seen in the Medical Adviser a slur upon our practice as surgeons —you call us Quacks—I shall shortly state our case:—I suppose myself and my brothers, likewise my father and uncle, have been regularly brought up as surgeons, and I can say this, there is not a family in the world that has cured as many people of disorders as we have done; my cousin is Dr. Taylor of Oldfield-Lane, Salford near Manchester, commonly called Oldfield-Lane Doctor; my uncle was sent for by his late Majesty, to cure a polypus in the late Princess Amelia's nose, which he did, when all the London doctors had given her up as incurable. If you publish any thing against us or anyways concerns us, you do it at your peril. If the London quacks, as you call them, cannot find money to indict you, we will lay out a few thousands by way of a trial as the first. You talk of us curing a man that had live frogs in his belly, but we can cure you of having too few brains in your head.

We are Sir,

THE WITWORTH DOCTORS.

Witworth, near Bury, March 16th, 1824. ! ! !

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Botany. The following experiments have been made by Professor Deberciner of Jena: two glass vessels were procured, each of the capacity of 320 cubic inches; two portions of barley in portions of the same earth, and moistened in the same degree, and then placed one in each vessel. The air was not exhausted in one, till reduced to the pressure of 14 inches of mercury, and condensed in the other until the pressure equalled 56 inches. Germination took place in both nearly at the same time, and the leaflets appeared of the same green tint; but at the end of fifteen days, the following differences existed; the shoots in the rarified air, were six inches in length, and from nine to ten inches in the condensed air. The first were expanded and soft; the last rolled round the stem and was solid. The first was wet on their surface, and especially towards the extremities; the last was nearly dry. "I am disposed," says M. Debereiner, to "believe that the diminution in the size of plants, as they rise into higher regions on mountains, depend more on the diminution of pressure, than of heat. The phenomena of drops of water on the leaves, in the rarified air, calls to my mind the relation of a young Englishman, who whilst passing through Spanish America as a prisoner, remarked, that on the highest mountains of the country, the trees continually transpired a quantity of water; even in the dryest weather, the water falls sometimes like rain. *(Bib. Univ.)*

Zoology. The workmen engaged in blasting a rock from the bed of the Erie canal at Lockport, in Niagara county, lately discovered, in a small cavity in the rock, a toad in the torpid state, which, on exposure to the air, instantly revived, but died in a few minutes afterwards. The cavity was only large enough to contain the body, without allowing room for motion. No communication existed with the atmosphere; the nearest approach to the surface was six inches, through solid stone. It is not mentioned, whether the rock was sandstone, or lime-stone, but from the prevalence of lime on the surface of

the contiguous country, it may be presumed to be the latter. The country is wholly of secondary formation. Of the causes which enable animals of this class, which have been suddenly enveloped in strata of earth, or otherwise shut out from the air, without injury to the animal organ, to resume, for a limited period, the functions of life on being restored to the atmosphere, no explanation need here be given, as the occurrence is a very common one, and is, perhaps, always more or less the result of galvanic action. *(Silliman's Journal.)*

New treatment in Hysterics.—Mary Robinson a "*disorderly*," was committed to Cold Bath Fields' prison some days ago, and was seized with hysterical fits on entering the gates. Two of the turnkeys humanely took her in their arms to carry her to the hospital, when they were met by Mr. Webbe the surgeon of the prison, who peremptorily commanded the men to put her down upon the *cold stones in the yard*, and there let her remain for two hours!—the fits were excessive; and our informant, who is a *humane* man, declares that the mode of cure appeared to him, although it *might* be necessary, *inhuman*. Mr. Webbe, we have heard, has left off the practice of cutting off the women's long hair, and we are very happy to hear it. The tread-wheel labour is quite enough for the poor creatures without depriving them of their natural ornaments; besides it is not specified in their sentence as a part of their punishment, then why should a surgeon do it?

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TERRAM'S letter remains at our publishers.

T. G. should send word where to address our opinion.

W. A. cannot have any effectual method of removing safely "superfluous hair,"—we think there is no such thing as *superfluous* hair upon the human body.

M. V. Chapel-place, Long-lane, Bow, has had a letter sent; if it is not received let him write again.

G. S. will find it at any perfumers.

R. P. of Bristol shall have a letter directed to the Post Office. We are obliged by the "Old Woman's Remedies," and hope he will send us something authentic of the quack Lamert of Bristol.

R. S. will particularly oblige by giving us a word or two on the Quack he mentions.

M. P. of Manchester shall have a letter as he wishes.

A CLERGYMAN'S case is by no means what he thinks: the simple means of attending to the bowels, and bathing the parts with warm water would be sufficient to cure him.

"The Apothecary's Bill has been received. A. Z. is sadly deceived: if he wishes we will mention his case.

There is nothing more dangerous than Mrs. Johnson's soothing syrup, we have often said so before—except the humbug of Rakasiri. We thank our correspondent for the anecdotes of the Goss and Co. humbug,—all in good time.

T. B. next week.

We want a thing or two of "Dr. M'Donald," the cheese and beer quack, to make a complete set of curiosities.

B. S. S. must apply to a surgeon in his neighbourhood, for our advice would do him no good. He requires daily attention.

G. W. P's. favour is thankfully received.

X. S. X. Woolwich, shall have a letter at the Post-office.

X. Y. Z. next week. Many others unavoidably postponed.

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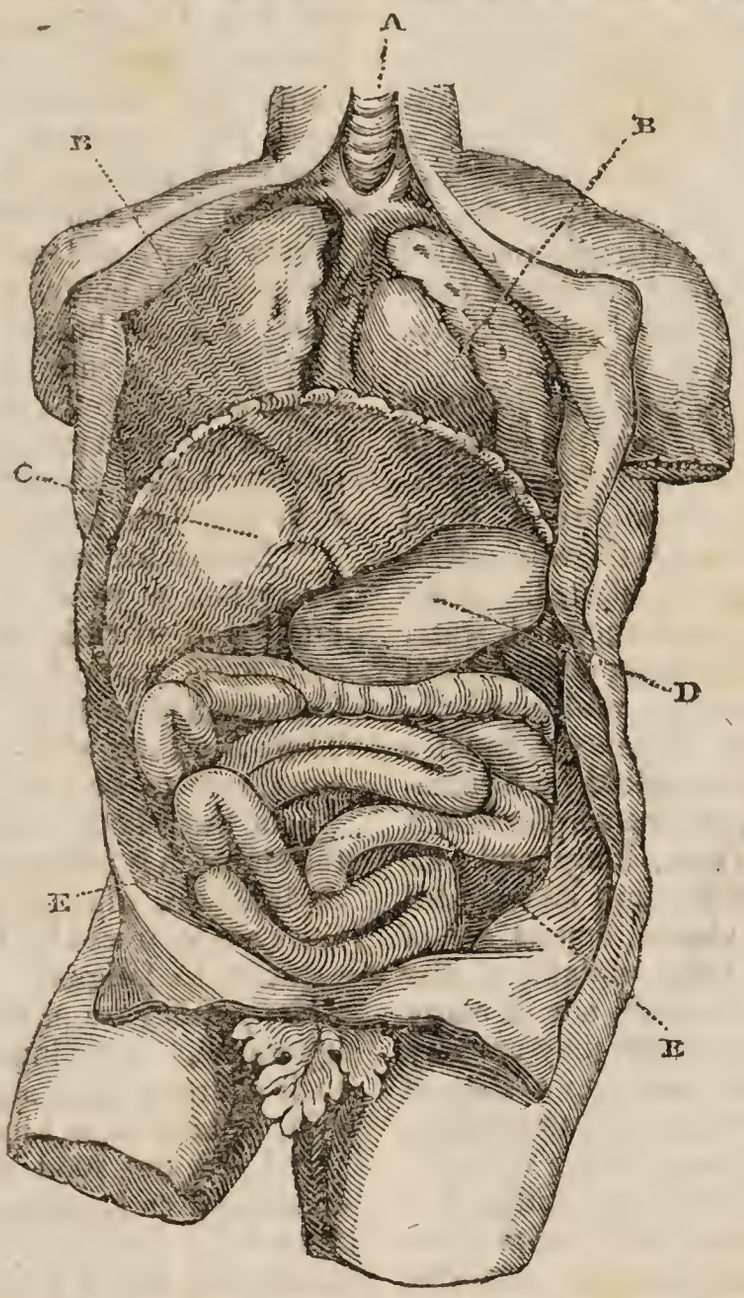
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 18.] SATURDAY, APRIL 3d, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



VIEW OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

A. the Trachea.
BB. the Lungs.
C. the Liver.
D. the Stomach.
EE. the Intestinal Canal.

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DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

EVERY thing which we take into the stomach, except food, may be considered in two points of view; either as a diluent or a medicine. Water is the only diluent, and we are in the habit of mixing alimentary matter and stimulants with it. Diluents probably ought not to be taken during or immediately after our meals, since they would be likely to render the juices of the stomach less efficacious in the digestion of our food. Hunger and thirst seem to be incompatible sensations: an hungry animal would eat to satiety, and the stimulus of the food would bring on a discharge of the juices of the stomach, which have the power of digesting the food; and it is not probable that the sensation of thirst would be experienced till this operation of the stomach is effected. If the sensation of thirst then occurred, water would appease it, without frustrating the digestive functions, and being absorbed; from the alimentary canal a certain portion of it would be furnished to the blood, and the surplus would pass off from the skin, lungs and kidnies. All stimulants must be regarded as medicines; vinous liquors are of this class, and being suitable to the feelings of the stomach, are in many cases very efficacious, yet they are very liable quickly to pass into a state of acetous fermentation, and to promote that change in the remaining quantity of the vegetable matter contained in a disordered stomach, and thus produce a strong and injurious acid. The rule for taking vinous liquors in persons to whom habit has rendered them necessary, may be thus briefly stated. They should not take them during their meals, lest the temporary excitement they produce should induce them to take more food than the powers of the stomach are capable of digesting, but afterwards they may be allowed so much of them as may be required to induce agreeable feelings, or to express the fact more clearly, as is necessary to prevent those uncomfortable sensations which the want of them may occasion; and it may be added, the less they take the better. People deceive themselves on this point. A disordered stomach will feel uncomfortable after eating; fermented liquors remove for a time the unpleasant sensations. Potion after potion is swallowed on this account, often without producing permanent tranquillity, and much to the injury of the stomach. Wine drinkers do not drink wine after every meal, which proves that wine is not necessary to their digestion; and many who confided in this belief have been convinced of their error, by leaving it off, and finding that they digested their food as well when deprived of it, and that such privation greatly contributed to their eventual restoration to health. When stimulants seem requisite, and fermented liquors run into the acetous fermentation in the stomach, spicy and aromatic vegetables should be substituted, such as ginger, pepper, mustard, &c.

"Stomachic medicines are given to strengthen a weak stomach, to tranquillize an irritable one, or to counteract some morbid peculiarity in the feelings and actions of that organ. There is a time when stomachic medicines seem to be particularly required. About three hours after a meal, when the stomach is exhausted by the labour of digestion, when its morbid propensities are increased by the languor consequent to fatigue; at this period, when persons are in the habit, through ignorance, of taking food to appease their distress, they ought, as has been said, to take these kinds of medicine.

"Even our food must however be considered as exerting a medicinal influence in disorders of the stomach, when that organ is irritable. A vegetable diet and abstinence from fermented liquors may tend to tranquillize it. On the contrary, when it is weak as well as irritable, that aliment which is most readily digested is to be preferred, and cordials are sometimes beneficial. The effects of food and medicine can never be considered as resulting from their operation on the stomach solely, but from their conjoint influence upon the nervous system in general. Irritability of the stomach may arise from that of the brain, and unstimulating diet may tend to tranquillize the latter organ, and thereby alleviate the disorder of the former. On the contrary, a more

generous diet may, by exciting the nervous system, produce that degree of energy in its actions, which invigorates the stomach, and tranquillizes its disorder. It may further be observed in some cases, that the kind of medicines or diet which is serviceable to the stomach, may aggravate the nervous disorder; and on the contrary, that those means which seem to tranquillize nervous irritation tend to diminish the powers of the stomach.

"Bark and steel are not uncommonly given in these diseases to increase the powers of the stomach: they ought, I think, to be administered in small doses, and never when the tongue is dry; as they seem to suppress those secretions, which in many cases are already deficient; and the increase of which would tend to relieve irritation in the affected organs. I mention this opinion, however, rather to account to the reader for these medicines not having been prescribed in the subsequent cases, than for any other motive; as I do not feel perfectly competent to decide upon their degree or kind of utility.

"Vegetable diet-drinks appear to us very useful in tranquillizing and correcting disorders of the stomach and bowels, for this is the manner in which they seem to be efficacious in the cure of local diseases. The vegetables prescribed in the different formulæ are so dissimilar, that we can scarcely suppose that they act specifically upon the local disease. Even sweet-wort has obtained considerable celebrity. When diet-drinks fail to correct the disorders of the digestive organs, they also fail to produce any amendment on local diseases. Such observations have induced me to believe that they have the utility, which I have ascribed to them, of tranquillizing and correcting disorders of the stomach and bowels. It is allowable to form an opinion from such observations, though I am sensible of their invalidity as arguments to prove its truth.

"Whilst thus, on the one hand, by endeavouring exactly to proportion the quantity of food to the powers of digestion, by adopting an abstinent system of diet, and taking medicines suitable to the condition of the stomach, we endeavour to foster the powers and ensure the tranquillity of this important organ, we ought on the other most carefully to attend to the regulation of the action of the bowels, with a view to insure their tranquillity; for the state of one part of the canal will be regulated by the state of health or disease in the other. To produce tranquillity of the bowels when they are in a disordered state, it is necessary that the residue of the food be daily carried down and discharged from those organs; this is their natural function, and if they fail in its performance, they should be excited by appropriate medicines, yet without teazing them so as to induce what is ordinarily called purging. Purging, occurring spontaneously, shews that the bowels are irritable, and the aqueous and other discharges which take place from them in that condition often relieves their irritability. When purging occurs in consequence of taking medicine, it shews that the bowels have been irritated, and have relieved themselves in their usual manner. Persons may be purged without having their bowels cleared of the fœcal matter which may be detained in them: we should therefore endeavour to ascertain what kind or combination of purgative medicines will excite a healthy action of the bowels, without teazing them or producing discharges from the organs themselves. The best mode of proportioning the degree of excitement to the end designed, is to take a dose of a suitable medicine at night, but short of that which may prove irritating; if it fails sufficiently to excite the organs, a similar dose may be taken in the morning; which also failing, it may be repeated at an advanced period of the day.

"Purging medicines sometimes relieve unpleasant sensations; but they do not in general produce even this effect; and all active purges seem to me to increase disorder. It is natural to suppose that strong stimuli will aggravate the unhealthy condition of weak and irritable parts.

"I have already expressed my opinion of the manner in which the continuance of purgative medicines, in such doses as do not immediately

purge, relieve disorders of the digestive organs, by producing morbid secretions which afford considerable relief, both when they occur spontaneously or are thus induced. This plan of practice is what Dr. Hamilton has suggested, and the utility of which he has so successfully elucidated. I am aware that laxative medicines may relieve irritation merely by augmenting the natural secretions of the viscera, and thus unloading their vessels; and also by determining the fluids from the head, when the nervous symptoms are aggravated by a plenitude of the vessels of the brain. As I have found the lenient plan of treatment (that of exciting the peristaltic action of the bowels, so as to induce them to clear out the whole of the residue of the food; without irritating them, so as to produce what is ordinarily called purging) particularly successful, I have rarely deviated from it. I am not, therefore, warranted from experience in speaking decisively respecting the more free use of purgative medicines.

"It is difficult in many cases, to regulate the actions of the bowels either by diet or medicine. They are costive for a time, and then fits of purging come on. The former state must be obviated in order to prevent the latter. Medicines which excite a healthy action of the bowels in one person, are either inert or too active in another. Doses, which would have no effect in a state of health, become purgative in this disorder; a circumstance which shews that the bowels are irritable. There are some rare instances of the contrary, in which it is exceedingly difficult to excite the actions and secretions of these viscera.

"I have found in some cases, that purgative medicines and spices dissolved in spirit and water, have answered better than any thing else, in producing a sufficient, but not too copious discharge from the bowels. Equal parts of compound tincture of rhubarb and senna is the formula to which I allude. When irritation in the large intestines has been denoted by the mixture of mucus and jelly with the fæces, and sudden and urgent calls to void them, I have advised oily and mucilaginous medicines as aperients: as castor oil, mixed with a large proportion of mucilage. My sole object, however, has been to regulate the state of the bowels. and when they have been regular without medicine, I have rarely recommended any.

"At the same time, I have not been inattentive to the error in the biliary secretion, which exists in the greater number of these cases. I have endeavoured to correct this error by the administration of such small doses of mercury, as do not irritate the bowels, and are not likely to affect the constitution, even though persevered in for a considerable time. In this state of the digestive organs, calomel, in small quantities, sometimes proves irritating. I have combined it, as in Plummer's pill, and have given one grain every other night. Where this dose produced uneasy sensations, or acted as an aperient, five grains of the pil. hydrarg. were substituted in its place; and even this quantity has been diminished in some cases. When the bowels are very irritable, the hydrarg. c. creta has been given. When it appeared necessary, on account of the biliary secretion, and when the calomel did not irritate the bowels, I have increased the dose. The relief which arises from the increase or correction of the biliary secretion, in a great number of these cases, shews how much the liver is concerned in causing or aggravating the symptoms in these diseases.

"There are numerous and undoubted proofs of the utility of mercury, in correcting and augmenting the biliary secretion; but the mode of administering it has not, perhaps, been sufficiently attended to. I have known patients, who had voided nothing but blackish stools for some months, discharge fæces of a light yellow colour, denoting a healthy, but deficient secretion of bile, upon taking such small doses of mercury. The effect of this change on the constitution and spirits has been surprisingly great; though the state of the stomach did not appear to be altered. The use of mercury by inunction, sometimes acts beneficially, in correcting the biliary secretion; but if the constitution be irritated, and

weakened by that medicine, the actions of the liver are disturbed, and the digestive organs in general, become deranged. Mercury, in my opinion, acts most certainly and efficaciously, when taken into the bowels, and a much smaller quantity will suffice, when its applications is in this manner rendered chiefly local.

PLEURISY.

This is one of the numerous diseases which come under the sweeping term of "a cold." It is an inflammation of that membrane which lines the thorax or cavity of the breast, and covers the lungs, it lies close to the internal part of the ribs on one surface, and on the other to the lungs. It is most frequently occasioned by exposure to cold, and at this season is a prevalent disease, particularly with the lightly clad ball-going people. Those who have suffered once from the complaint, are likely to suffer from a recurrence of it, as it leaves a predisposition to inflammation behind.

The symptoms begin with acute pain in the side, flushing of the face, and difficulty of breathing, which become rapidly aggravated, and the patient, if he receives no assistance, becomes so agonised by the shooting pain in the side, that he fears even the slightest respiration, and a cough is constantly urging him on, to which he cannot yield without a pain along the back and side, almost unbearable. He cannot now lie down, nor move without torture; his pulse becomes hard, quick and vibrating; his stomach is nauseated, his head aches, and his mouth dry. If medical assistance be not obtained at this crisis or very soon after, the life of the patient is in jeopardy, yet there is scarcely any disease in which a Surgeon can so instantaneously relieve as in this. A full bleeding is attended with effects like magic; the patient breathes freely and seems as if restored from the hands of an evil spirit. However, this bleeding will not suffice; the pain usually returns in a few hours, and if not checked, runs on to the same extent. We have seldom observed a failure in removing this disease when the patient was bled (if an adult and strong) to the extent of twenty-four ounces of blood, and a large blister put upon the breast, and a purgative of salts administered:—in nine cases out of ten, it cuts short the disease. The manner of taking away the blood, should be here observed; and that is, that it should come from a *large orifice* in a *full stream*, so as to give as sudden effect to the inflamed vessels as possible. The blood in this fever, on coagulating, exhibits a buffy or whitish sizy appearance on the top, which always shows that inflammation is present in whatever case it appears. Repeated bleeding, then, in pleurisy, is the sheet anchor, and this must be adopted as soon as possible, for in a very few hours it may be out of the power of medicine to render any assistance. The symptoms which indicate this dangerous state, are a sudden cessation of pain, with a ghastly change of countenance, and a sinking of the pulse; these denote that the inflammation ran so high as to terminate in gangrene, and from this there is little hope. Sometimes the inflammation extends itself to the substance of the lungs, and terminates the patient's life by suffocation. No disease is replete with more sudden danger, and no disease can be more simply and promptly relieved. It has made the reputation of more surgeons than any other; for the transition from extreme torture and danger, to ease and apparent safety, is so sudden, and appears so evident to have come from the surgeon, that the patient believes his medical attendant more than mortal; particularly if, with the use of the lancet and blister, be combined a few draughts and mixtures.

The danger, however, does not altogether disappear with the pain in the side and difficulty of breathing: it often returns in about twelve or fourteen hours; therefore to guard against this, the patient must be kept on liquids, the room of warm and equal temperature, and the following mixture given:—

Of mendererus spirit, two ounces.
Of tincture of digitalis, one drachm.
Of antimonial wine, forty drops.
Of water, six ounces.

Add a little syrup. Two table spoonsful every four hours.

This mixture creates a moisture on the skin, and lessens the action of the blood-vessels. During its operation the patient must be covered all over.

It is sometimes a practice to give opiates in this disease, but that is destruction. Opium is only admissible when all inflammation is gone; that is when the pain has not been felt for three or four days, and the patient coughs a good deal; but even then we would not recommend it. If, however, there is restlessness and cough, a little of that part of opium lately discovered, called acetate of morphine, may be administered in the following way—

Tincture of digitalis, fifteen drops.
Solution of the acetate of morphine, four drops
Syrup of squills, one drachm.
Water, an ounce,—mix.

This we think in the latter stages of pleurisy, may be given with great advantage.

In the whole course of this complaint the patient must avoid animal food, and fermented liquor, and drink plentifully of whey, barley water, &c. When the inflammatory stage is gone by, the patient generally has a cough, which however will do no harm, particularly if he expectorates, and to promote this he should take the following :—

Tincture of squills, two drachms.
Syrup of squills, one drachm.
Sweet spirits of nitre, one drachm, mix.
—A *small* tea-spoon full of this taken three times a day, in a cup of barley-water, rendered pleasant by a little lemon juice and sugar.

This plan followed for eight or ten days will be sufficient, when the patient may gradually return to animal food, wine, &c.

To guard against pleurisy, people should wrap themselves well up at night on coming out of theatres, ball-rooms, churches, &c. and keep their arms, legs and feet from cold.

*OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Ink rubbed upon Warts to remove them.

It is only the ink which contains copperas that has any good effect in this case. The cure for warts, which we gave in our last number, is effectual, therefore this may be abandoned as uncertain. By the bye, the cure alluded to, and which is our own invention, was copied from our paper by the "PUBLIC LEDGER," as if it emanated from itself: this is a disregard to etiquette, which savours of something more unamiable than carelessness, and although the public press in general have most copiously and frequently extracted from the "MEDICAL ADVISER," yet we have remarked some, as well as the "LEDGER," who forget to say from what they copy; and one or two, who call us by another name, such as "MEDICAL JOURNAL." We hope they will excuse this observation, but we are emulous of their notice, as well as our own rights.

Swallowing Oil or melted Butter to enable the Stomach to bear an overdose of Wine or Spirits.

THIS, notwithstanding the character for efficacy given to it by many *jovials*, we cannot think to have the desired effect. We think the natural process of digestion forbids it. To say the best of it, it is a brutal recourse against the consequences of a more brutal indulgence.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A good Cough Mixture.

Of almond milk,—of ammoniac milk, equal parts.

Sweeten with a little syrup of saffron, one or two table spoonsful occasionally, relieves cough, it is one of the best mixtures. Any druggist can furnish the above milks.

A good Stomachic for old Ladies.

Tincture of ginger, one drachm.
Tincture of jalap, two drachms.
Compound spirits of lavender, thirty drops. Mix—the whole to be taken.

* We request our readers, who may be able to transmit us remedies of this description, in order that they may have our opinion, [illegible]

CASE OF LONGEVITY FROM ATTENTION TO REGIMEN, &c.

Communicated by the individual himself, who now is living very near London.

I AM now ninety-eight years old, and at the early age of thirty-seven, I was thought by all my friends, to be taking my last look at this world.—My frame was emaciated, my appetite gone, my digestion so deranged, that I was obliged to have recourse to physic every week, which only relieved me for the moment. My nerves were so shattered that I trembled as I went; I could not sleep without the most agonizing dreams, and even when lying awake at night, would often fancy the most horrific situations; in short, I wished myself dead, and were it not for the faith which I have in God, and the reverence I bear his commandments, I should most certainly have put a period to my wretched existence. I fancied every one despised me, which made me shun all social company, and my relief from sinking was often a flood of tears. In my early youth, I gave way to great excesses, which I imagine to have been the cause of all the dreadful symptoms of my disorder; and a more healthy constitution previously to those excesses did not exist. Until about thirty, I did not feel that my health was seriously declining, when restlessness at night, unrefreshing sleep, melancholy sallow countenance, a premature appearance of age, and a frequent recurrence of nervous trembling, but too forcibly pointed out the danger in which I was. Heedless, however, of those admonitions, I paid but little attention, contenting myself with purchasing occasionally some druggist's made up pills for indigestion, which rather injured me in the long run. Although they acted momentarily as a benefit, they always left behind a greater degree of melancholy and costiveness than they before palliated, and I believe did me serious injury. To relieve myself from the blue devils, I made a habit of going to a tavern, and there used to sit drinking ale and smoking for several hours. This practice was extremely pernicious, and was near producing a liver complaint: and every morning found me worse and worse. At this time I became a complete hypochondriac, and fancied myself the most diseased of mankind; and if my light went out of a night, or if I discovered that I had not water in my room, the fear of death came so powerfully upon me, that I felt every moment at the point of suffocation.

At the age of thirty-seven, it so happened that for my support, I was obliged to commence a business in which I was to travel a great deal through England, Ireland and Scotland; and scarcely able to support, as I thought, the journey, I consulted a Physician, in order to obtain his advice relative to guarding myself against casualties on my way. This gentleman said it would serve my health to travel, and the substance of his advice was, to go to bed about nine o'clock, rise about eight, leave off smoking and malt liquor, never eat to quite satisfy myself, take a little wine and water for drink, and previous to my going on my journey, take an emetic. I followed his direction, and in about a fortnight, I began to feel the good effects of this simple system; I slept well, and, what I seldom did before, felt refreshed; I became better in my spirits, and my colour returned,—in short, before six months I was a new man. This mode of living, I have ever since followed, and thank God, have had a long and happy life, I have enjoyed that without which all is gloom,—and that is HEALTH.

Comment upon the above.

This case we think was relieved by the change not only in diet, but in habits of mind. The machinery both of his mental and physical faculties, were (if we may use the expression) mouldy through want of mental stimulus, which acted upon his stomach and liver; the derangement of these re-acted upon the mind, and so it would have gone on till death, had not the mind been set to work in a new way, and a regimen adopted with the body, calculated to place it in the best possible way, to receive the mental energy. This theory will apply to most cases of Indigestion, and judiciously considered, may serve to

shew the principles upon which that disease exists, and how it may be removed.

A WORD TO NURSES.

THERE are few things so embarrassing to suckling mothers as irritable and excoriated nipples. The affection is brought on in general by the constant state of moisture in which the parts are kept, and the friction of coarse or woollen clothes. When it takes place, the following plan should be adopted; a few drops of the liquor of acetate of lead should be dropped into a little rose water, so as to make it white, and the parts washed with this thrice a day, and after each washing, sprinkled with a little calamine finely powdered. The mother, if both nipples are affected, should either leave off suckling the child, or a shield, such as may be had of any Surgical Instrument Maker, should be used. If the child is to suck, particular attention should be paid to the washing of the nipples in warm water, just before the child is put to the breast, in order to prevent any particles of the lead from remaining and injuring the infant.

EXORBITANT CHARGES OF MEDICINE.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SEEING in your valuable publication of last week an exposure of the exorbitant charges of the practising Apothecary, I beg leave to trouble you with the charges of my apothecary; for having a family of seven children, my bill at the year's end amounts to *no small sum*; he charges me for *lancing an infant's gums 2s. 6d.; dressing a cut finger each time 5s.; a draught 2s. 6d.; (of which I have seldom fewer than six in a day); six ounces mixture, 4s. 6d.; powders, 6d each.* So seeing in your publication your plan of calling in the physician, I have done so; but I do not take my prescription to *the apothecary*, but to a *respectable druggist*, where I get my medicines *much cheaper*, and I may venture to say *better*, than by taking it *to the apothecary*, for my druggist charges me for draughts 10d. each; six ounce mixtures 1s. 6d.; one dozen pills 8d.; &c. &c. By adopting the above plan, I have saved to myself *a great expense*, and to my family, the *unpleasantness of being drenched with unnecessary medicines*. By giving the above a place in your excellent publication,

You will much oblige,

A. C. R.

West End of the City,
Friday, 25th March

CINCHONA BARK.

CINCHONA BARK is a powerful and permanent tonic, possessing also antispasmodic and antiseptic powers, and is undoubtedly superior to all other remedies in counteracting febrile action, and restoring strength and vigour to morbidly weakened habits.

The stories which are related regarding the discovery of its febrifuge effects, appear to be founded on fiction, and are unworthy of notice; the Peruvians it has been supposed, were acquainted with its powers before the conquest of their country, by the Spaniards, and from them the knowledge of it might be acquired by their conquerors; but Humboldt renders this idea improbable, and says that the use of the Cinchona bark "is entirely unknown to the Indians in Loxa Guaneabamba, and far around. They even regard it as poisonous, and in Malacatis only, where many bark peelers live, they begin to put confidence in the Cinchona bark."

The most probable history of the discovery of the febrifuge virtues of Cinchona, is the following tradition mentioned by Humboldt, in his dissertation on the Cinchona forests. The Jesuits at the felling of the wood had taken notice of the considerable bitterness of the Cinchona, and there being always medical practitioners among the missionaries, it is said they had tried an infusion of the Cinchona in the tertian ague, a complaint which is very common in that part of the country, and having found it

succeed in curing the disease, began to employ it as a febrifuge.

It was nevertheless little known by Europeans, until the Countess of Chinchon, wife of Don Guonima Fernandez di Cabresa Bobadilla y Mendoza, Count of Chinchon, viceroy of Peru, introduced it into Europe, on her return to Spain, in 1640; its fame soon spread, and it was taken to Italy in 1649, and through the means of Cardinal de Lugo and the Jesuits, was distributed over the Continent. It was in repute in England in 1658, but owing to its high price, and some prejudices formed against it, it was very little used, till Talbot, an Englishman, again brought it into vogue, by the many cures he performed with it in France, under the name of the English remedy; his secret of preparing and exhibiting it, was purchased by Louis XIV., and made public. These circumstances throw light on the origin of some of the names, by which it has been known, as Cortex and Pulvis Concilissæ, Cortex and Pulvis de Lugo, and Pulvis Jesuiticus or Pulvis Patrum; it was called also Palos di Calcutura, or fever wood, on account of its effects, and from the place where it was brought, Peruvian Bark.

It was introduced into practice for the cure of intermittent fever, and still retains the reputation it acquired as a remedy for that disease, although owing to peculiar idiosynciasies, and other accidental causes, it has occasionally failed in this country in agues, which were afterwards removed by other remedies, particularly arsenic; some of these failures perhaps may have arisen from the kind of bark employed; for notwithstanding the generally received opinion that all kinds of bark may be indifferently used one for another, yet there is some reason for the assertions of the Spanish and American Physicians, that they vary in other respects besides their degree of activity! By them the pale bark Càlisaya Quina Naransada is considered as directly a febrifuge, and the best adapted for the cure of the ague; the yellow bark Quina Amirilla, as only indirectly so, and better fitted for slow fevers and chronic debilities, while the red Colorado Quina Roxa, is only fit to be used in cases of gangrene, as its use is apt to be followed by disgusting nausea, severe vomiting, and insupportable cholic. The differences of opinion, with regard to the best time of giving it are now nearly settled. Boerhaave and others recommend that the fever should be allowed to run on for some time before it was administered, but it is now generally agreed, that the bark cannot be given too early after the stomach and bowels be cleared by an emetic and cathartic; Dr. Cullen recommended the exhibition of it in a large dose, or doses, immediately before the accessions; but Morton's method of given it directly after the hot stage of the paroxysm ceases, and repeating it in increased doses during the intermission, until the cold stage again returns, is now generally adopted; it may be safely given however during the paroxysm, as practised by Dr. Clarke, of Newcastle, but many stomachs are apt to nauseate it at that time.

In remittent fevers, cinchona is found equally efficacious, but the excitement however, particularly in the remittents of warm climates, requires to be previously subdued by bloodletting, and the bowels to be kept open; it renders the remissions distinct, and by degrees checks altogether the febrile action:—in other affections, depending on a similar state of habit, as hemicrania, periodical pains, spasms, chorea, hysteria, epilepsy, passive hemorrhage, and in habitual frequently returning coughs it is also found useful, but it does not prevent the continuance of those paroxysms of ague which form one of the constitutional symptoms of stricture of the urethra, and some other local affections, and which can be cured only by removing the strictures, and other sources of irritation.

In the low stage of continued fevers of the typhoid type, particularly when these are attended with symptoms of putridity, as in jail fever, cynanchi maligna, scarlatina maligna, confluent small-pox, and in putrid measles, the bark must be regarded as one of the most valuable remedies; the administration of it in pure typhus has

been of late years judiciously delayed, until the increased excitement is presumed to be subdued, and symptoms of great debility make their appearance, or until the morbid heat be carried off, and the skin opened:—several eminent modern physicians, however recommend it to be given early in the disease, and persevered in; but the former perhaps is the safer practice, and I believe that the best effects will be produced from the cinchona, when its use in pure typhus is not begun till the skin becomes moist, the tongue is in part cleaned, and the urine deposits a critical sediment; the best adjuncts in these cases, are the diluted sulphuric, or the muriatic acids, and aromatics, particularly the tincture of capsicum.

Cinchona was first conjectured to be useful in gout, by Sydenham, and in some cases its efficacy is sufficiently evident; in rheumatism also, Dr. Haygarth has lately strongly recommended it to be given after the manner of Morton, Hulse and Fothergill, from the commencement of the disease, the stomach and bowels being previously emptied, by means of antimonial preparations: it is found useful after the liberal exhibition of calomel, tartarized antimony, colchicum and opium, when the pain has abated, or assumed an intermittent character, and the pulse has become softer; its efficacy in this disease is much increased by the addition of spirit of turpentine.

In phthisis, bark is found beneficial, when the accompanying hectic puts on more of the intermittent form than usual, when the debility is considerable, and blood is mixed in the sputa; and in several cases of pneumonia, when after repeated large bleedings and evacuations, the pulse continued hard and thrilling and the blood buffey, although the expectoration was free, and the skin open, yet the bark has produced the happiest effects.

In various cutaneous diseases, as lichen agrius, and lividus in purpura, in impetigo erysipelatodes and scabida, in some varieties of erysipelas and extensive ulcerations both from common inflammation and venereal affections, in the termination of all acute diseases, after the urgent symptoms are subdued, and in dyspepsia, chronic-debility and nervous affections, cinchona is found to possess great efficacy.

As a local remedy, bark is sometimes used in the form of gargle in malignant sore throat, and apthous affections, and as a wash to fœtid gangrenous sores, but in these cases the red bark is to be preferred; powerful effects are also said to be produced upon the system, by frictions with the extract, softened by saliva or oil, upon the thighs and other parts of the body; it may be efficaciously administered per anum, when it cannot be taken into the stomach; but Denman says he found no advantage from its use as a clyster in the low state of puerperal fever, in which it has been highly extolled.

Cinchona bark is administered in a variety of forms in substance: it is reduced to the state of an impalpable powder and although it loses some of its activity, during the process of pulverization, yet when it can be retained on the stomach this is the best form of the remedy. If it excite nausea or vomiting, or operate as a cathartic, or occasion costiveness, these inconveniences may in some degree be obviated, by combining it with aromatics, opium, or a cathartic, as circumstances direct, or some of the lighter preparations, in which its active principles are supposed to be extracted, and free from the grosser parts, may be employed; the powder is given mixed in wine or water; or when the taste is an objection, in milk or syrup, or a solution of extract of liquorice, all of which effectually cover the taste, provided the dose be taken directly after it is mixed. The dose of the powder, is from five grains to half a drachm or more. In intermittents, the full dose is sometimes given at first, but in other diseases, five, ten or fifteen grains are sufficient to commence with, the dose being repeated every two, three, or four hours, and gradually increased, until one or two ounces, in some cases, be taken in twenty-four hours.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

DR. COURTENAY.

M'DONALD, the beer and cheese quack, (by the bye the worst of the whole bunch, not even excepting Eady the wall-chalker) not being in proper costume to appear before our readers this week, we avail ourselves of his place to pop "Dr." Courtenay in; for it appears that he liked so well the nook we gave him on a former occasion, that he thus solicits again our further notice.

Our readers will recollect that we informed them we received a visit from Courtenay's friend or lawyer, threatening us with an indictment unless we published a paper which he handed to us, and which we this day insert. We have had another visit since that, in which sundry stamps, and stares, and threats were levelled at our publisher for omitting to publish the paper he handed to us, and the visitor departed with a positive assurance that legal proceedings should be instantaneously commenced against us. We confess that we felt a greater desire to publish the statement of Courtenay than he did to see it in print; but lest we should have put it into his power to say that he intimidated us, we were obliged in defence of our own feelings to withhold it. We now find that no indictment is forth-coming, and therefore willingly give the precious document a place in our quacks' corner. It is an exquisite piece of stuff, and conjoined with the two succeeding letters from two of his patients, adds additional strength to what we before said of him. The following is the paper:—

[We published the statement respecting Dr. Courtenay in our paper of Saturday literally as sent us, and to shew our candour and regard to individual, as well as public justice, we insert the following.]

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

As your paper is the medium through which I received a dangerous wound in my professional reputation, it is but just that I look for its remedy through the same medium. In some of the earlier numbers of your paper, you say, "of Dr. Courtenay we know nothing;" I would therefore acquit you of any intentional injury to my character; but as you have done me wrong by accident, it is but reasonable you should do me justice by design. In the gross and libellous statement to which I allude, I have been stigmatised with the odious appellation of quack; a character which I heartily concur with you in reprobating. It gives me temporary pain to be thought a quack, but it will give me and my friends permanent pleasure to prove I am the reverse. At the age of fifteen, I was articled to Mr. James Jones, a Surgeon and Apothecary, of Grafton Street, Soho; a gentleman equally respected in his private, as professional life. It is necessary for me to inform the public, of a standing law of the Company of Apothecaries, that no youth shall be permitted to be articled to any of its members, without having previously undergone a strict examination before the master and wardens respecting his education and knowledge of the Latin language, and his general fitness for the profession. After the expiration of his pupilage, he must undergo another severe examination, touching his knowledge in pharmacy, and nothing but his abilities can procure him his admission as a member of their society, without which he is rejected. When my articles expired with Mr. Jones, I became the pupil of Messrs. Grindel and Blizard (now Sir William Blizard) walked the London hospital, and attended their lectures as professors of Anatomy and Surgery: the certificates of these gentlemen of my professional skill, assiduity, and humanity, procured for me the appointment of one of the Surgeons to the Tower Hamlet Dispensary, at that time Dr. Prendergast was the physician, and Mr. Matthew Kiernan, of Well-close Square, was the senior Surgeon. I have been twenty-seven years a member of the Apothecaries Company. Having practised for several years with considerable success in London, I went to Edinburgh and entered myself as a student in the first medical school

in Europe, the University of Edinburgh. My college certificate of three years attendance on the different professors, and my diploma may he seen at my residence in Robert Street, Adelphi.

When the Peace took place between this country and France, I went on the continent on professional pursuits, and to contrast the practice of foreign countries with my own. (*Query* what *practice?—We were there at the time, as we have stated in a former number of our work.*) On my return I resided and practised as a physician for a few years at Boulogne, and was appointed by the Princess Narriskin, cousin of the Emperor Alexander, *(Prodigious!!)* Physician to herself and suite, and continued to be so during the whole time of her residence at Boulogne. I beg leave to observe, that if I am a quack, all the members of the Apothecaries Company, the University of Edinburgh, and all who had Scotch diplomas are quacks, and they are equally liable as I am to the same opprobrious appellation.

Feeling, therefore, as I do, my honor as a gentleman wounded my practice likely to be injured, justice alone impels me to remove by a fair and candid statement the injurious impression which foul malignancy and wicked misrepresentation too often make on the public mind.

I have to apologise to the public for this egotism in obtruding my private or professional concerns on their notice, but I hope to be forgiven on the consideration that as the calumny was public its refutation ought to be equally so.

I am sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES B. COURTENAY.

Robert Street, Adelphi,
February 19th, 1821.

This letter scarcely requires a comment, except to say that we challenged Courtenay to *shew us* proofs of his statement without receiving any. *He* —Courtenay—a Member of the University of Edinburgh! It only shews to what lengths quacks will go in audacity. As to his being a member of the Apothecaries Company, it is nothing even were it true; we know an old woman who keeps an Apothecary's, shop in Smithfield, who is also a member. That company formerly admitted any thing; but within these few years they have become more circumspect.

The annexed letters have been sent us, accompanied with the real signatures and addresses, and the writers will at any time come forward, (if necessary,) to prove their statements.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

HAVING read "The Medical Adviser," I cannot help returning you my grateful thanks, for exposing those pests of society, (Quack Doctors,) by whom I unfortunately have been much defrauded.

Suffering great debility from juvenile excess, I was induced by their puffing advertisements to swallow their nauseous medicines, amongst others Solomon's Balm of Gilead, which is little else than brandy, and for which I paid 33s. per pint; but the most defrauding scoundrel I ever met with, is Dr. Courtenay of the Adelphi. I was induced by a work published by him to consult him, and he assured me he would cure me instantly; he immediately gave me a pint bottle of medicine and a few pills, for which he demanded and received five guineas! and when I was leaving the house, he had the cruelty, (I say the cruelty, for I am but a poor young man,) to demand one guinea for a consulting fee. When I came home, I took his medicine according to his directions, and continued to do so for three days, on the third day I was exceedingly ill, felt an immense weight at my stomach, and in every respect much worse; the medicine likewise became decomposed, the colouring which he had put in separated from the medicine, and was in appearance very similar to curds and whey. I returned to him with the remainder of the medicine, and told him I felt worse:—this learned doctor had the assurance to tell me that the medicine did not agree with me, although but three days before I paid him five guineas for it, as a specific remedy for my complaint. He then gave me a half pint bottle of stuff in its stead, which was nothing more

than elixir of vitriol, and may be purchased at any chemist's for three or four shillings. I have some by me, and should feel happy to have it analyzed. I need not observe, that I derived no benefit from this impostor, and that I applied no more for *his* advice.

On the truth of the above you may rely, and I shall feel most happy in satisfying you in any particular wherein you may wish for a more explicit explanation.

Yours most gratefully,
G. W. P.

Mary-le-bone.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

YOUR valuable publication has completely opened my eyes to the deception practised upon me by that infamous quack Courtenay, as he styles himself. Though the information comes too late to save my pocket, I trust it is not too late to restore me to my former health. Courtenay has gulled me out of five guineas, which I paid him down before he would enter into my case, as he informed me he performed the cure for a stipulated sum :—his charge, he said, for my case, was ten guineas, but as I told him I had but five guineas, he agreed to cure me for that sum ; how far he has acted up to his agreement you can best judge from the description I gave you in my former letter.

I sincerely hope the description of this man in your publication, will be a warning to the public, who are liable, like me, to be led astray, by the high character given of this pretender in the European Magazine.

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. R.

ELECTION EXTRAORDINARY.

THE Porter Brewers, anxious to promote the cause of the brave and valiant Colonel Narcotic, have determined to begin an active fermentation in favour of that gentleman: and do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint their best, most trusty, and dearly beloved friends—

Samuel DEADLY NIGHT-SHADE,
Felix THORN-APPLE,
Abraham HOUNDS-TONGUE,
Jacob COCULUS INDICUS,
Arthur NUX VOMICA,
Obadiah OPIUM, and
Jonathan TOBACCO, Gentlemen,

To form a Central Committee, who shall meet every evening, during the election, in St. Paul's Church-yard, Covent-garden, for the dispatch of business: afterwards the said committee will attend the sub-committees in the other church yards, where those interested in the success of the election will attend :—particularly Physicians, Apothecaries, Coffin-makers, and Grave-diggers.

N. B. Colonel Narcotic informs the Independent Electors of Westminster, that John Malt and James Hops are impostors, and form no part of his committees.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SOME extracts from your valuable publication in the daily Newspapers, induced me to purchase all the numbers of your work, yet published, and I feel real pleasure at the manner in which you are exposing the quacks. I do not observe that you have ye "served up" Mr. (I beg his pardon,) Sir Charles Aldis, but as I cannot doubt but you will favor your readers with a history of so worthy a character, I will state the following facts to you, that you may use them as you think proper, and I annex my real name and address, and will answer Sir Charles in any manner he may wish. A lady, a relation of mine, had for some years laboured under a cancer in her breast, like many others unfortunately afflicted with the same disease, she hid it from all her friends, till cure was out of the question ; she was, however, advised to apply to a surgeon, which she did to two, both men of talent and character, who instantly told her friends that cure was hopeless, but that she might live almost free from pain for some years, and as she was then upwards of sixty years of age, her friends were in some measure relieved by this assurance. At this time it happened most unfor-

tunately that she saw Sir Charles's Advertisement, and she called on him, when he said that the surgeons she had seen were fools, and without one moment's hesitation, promised a complete cure; in short, after receiving from her husband upwards of one hundred pounds, in less than six months the lady died in the most excruciating agony, and not three days before she died, this scoundrel assured her when he called, that her cure was going on to his entire satisfaction; he also gave her relations the same assurances, though the fact that she was dying, was but too evident to all who saw her, and even her own family offered up their petitions to their Maker that he would be pleased to deliver her from her dreadful sufferings. In short, from the unfortunate day in which she was induced to go to Aldis, she never was out of the most dreadful agony; as the stuff which he applied to the wound, was painful beyond description. I enclose my card, but beg my name may be suppressed, unless this impudent quack apply for it, when you have my authority to give it him.

A. B.

March 20th, 1821.

We earnestly request our philanthrophic correspondents who are acquainted with this infamous fellow's history, to furnish us with it, a more lamentable case has never come before us. The writer has sent us his address, we have enquired as to the truth of it, and *pledge ourselves* to the fact.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

THE 10th HUSSARS.

The conduct of this regiment has given rise to a great deal of conversation, and amongst the rest, we must have our *medical talk* upon it. When the 10th Hussars were attached to the first division of cavalry under Sir Stapleton Cotton, now Lord Combermere, they were, in the latter end of the campaign of 1813, placed on very hard duty, and were frequently sent on picquets in the Pyrenees, when those mountains were covered with snow and the enemy at hand. One of these "sprigs," a Mr. W———, amongst others "*took ill*," the surgeon of his regiment, Dr. Morison, saw him, and by the certificate of this gentleman, Mr. W. was excused his mountainous excursions and allowed to proceed to England for the recovery of his health. Dr. Maginn, the assistant staff-surgeon to Lord Combermere's head quarters, was directed to attend him to Passages, from Tafalia, and to see him embarked. On the road, through Navarre, from the scantiness of accommodation, these two gentlemen were necessitated to sleep in the same room, and the Dr. took notice that Mr. W——— every night took a pill, which led him to question the latter upon the reason of so doing, as he knew nothing was prescribed for him. "O! damme doctor," said the *sick cornet*, "it is a fire-ball—an opium pill. We are coming near Passages, and it wont do to look quite well, you know, for I'm to be examined by a board of *Medico's*, so must blink them, d'y'see." "How much do you take?" demanded the medical officer. "Four grains, by G—, and damme doctor if I wouldn't half poison myself before I'd go upon another picquet; no more snow for me, and a saddle to sleep on; I shall have a bed at Long's by G—." A long conversation followed, in which this Sprig of the 10th explained seriously his dislike for *active* service, acknowledged that the finery and quarters in London induced him to join the army, but that he got quite enough of it in *one month*, and was determined if he could not succeed in obtaining renewal of leave until the regiment either returned to, or moved into a more agreeable quarters in Spain, he would resign. This officer is still in the regiment, and no doubt called Mr. Battier a *bad drill*. We have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Battier, he has been under our medical care, and if he could not avail himself of learning his profession while in the 5th Dragoon Guards, it was because his eyes were so affected from ophthalmia as to nearly confine him to his room almost the whole of the time he was

in that regiment. A more gentlemanly young man cannot be, and from what we know of him, we dare swear he would sooner have taken a *leaden* pill, than a pill of opium for the purpose, that Mr. W———, his *cutter*, did in the Pyrenees.—*This is a true bill.*

Poison from Meadow Saffron—The papers report the death of a man from a decoction of Meadow Saffron, which was taken to cure the gout. This is not the first fatal case from that root. People who take Meadow Saffron from the fields themselves are often led astray in estimating its strength, for in some soils and particular seasons, it possesses little acrimony, while in others it is excessively so. Its acrimonious qualities are found to be a peculiar alkali, which M. M. Pelletier and Caventon discovered and named *Veratrine.* Meadow Saffron should not be used but by direction of medical men.

We are informed that since the three *learned*, *wise*, and *humane* physicians made their report to Mr. Secretary Peel upon the application of the Tread Mill to females, that all the magistrates who belong to their party are in extacy: they daily bring their friends to look at the women at work, and point out with magisterial consequence the excellence and simplicity of the punishment. Mr. Bevil had a party of ladies last week at Cold-bath fields to inspect the labourers, amongst whom were a clergyman's wife and daughter; the question as to the nature of the mill labour was put, and the ladies agreed with Mr. Bevil and the opinion of the three *learned and humane* physicians that it was not at all injurious to women.

The magistrate who committed the two women to hard labour, and obliged them to work with their suckling infants at Guilford jail, now walks about the yard with his hands in his pockets along with Mr. Jackson, the *humane* surgeon, delighted with the work, and damning the *Medical Adviser.* They all say *they have beaten Mr. Peel.*—We hope not.

A correspondent informs us that since the poor woman miscarried from working at the tread mill, Mr. Webb, the surgeon, has ordered that one ounce of castor oil be always kept in the prison! Hassel the clerk thought it making too much of *the wretches*, and was sure that the committee of magistrates would scarcely sanction such expenditure. He thought that the lemon would have been the last luxury permitted: but *castor oil* exceeded all bounds,—he should not wonder but he'd order an orange next, or perhaps tea, as the *Medical Adviser* remarked upon it.

We have read Dr. Mason Good's second letter to Sir. J. C. Hippisley, Bart, on the tread mill, and most earnestly recommend it to the advocates of that inhuman instrument of torture.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. J.'s suggestion cannot be adopted: it would interfere with our original plan.

J. CHEIRI should increase the dose of the pills, as he is in the habit of using purgatives. Have they been made up properly? The addition of two grains of gamboge each dose, in his case, will give them full strength.

W. T. is informed that if his strength is good, and no disease of the lungs, playing on the German flute will hurt him.

SNETSUG's favour is come to hand, and will be of use, the quack is almost below notice.

A. B. will find his request in a letter at the Post Office, Edinburgh.

H. H. has obliged, all those things shall be considered.

QUINQUAGENARIUS shall have his request.

M. A's letter on the Dutch faculty shall be turned to advantage.

A CONSTANT READER is informed that we know of nothing that can be

safely employed, for the removal of "superfluous" hair. The Spanish ladies think that soft hair on their lip adds to their beauty.

PRINCE's Russia oil is of no use, more than common sweet oil, nor are any of the advertised oils, or bear's grease. They do not come exactly within the plan of our "*Annals of Quackery.*"

W. W—m—t should take a cup of strong green tea, when he feels the drowsy sensation, and not set by the fire, but move about a little. For the lady, let him send word where to address a letter.

ZOOTOMIST MINOR, shall be attended to: his illustration of the conduct of that infamous quack M'Donald, of the Kent-road, will serve; but we want more of his private history.

A SUFFERER must recollect that indigestion is the cause of half the diseases in the catalogue; but purgatives are of no use to cure; they only make the disease worse. Let him send his address, and he shall have our directions how to proceed.

J. W. C. should tell us where to address a letter to him.

O. L. shall have a prescription as he desires, at our publisher's.

The Quack bill and puff, referring for purchase of the medicine, to the office of the Exeter newspaper is received. We shall at a future period remark upon the practice of such country newspapers as lend their names to thus assist fraud and quackery.

The Anecdotes of the late wholesale quack Solomon, of Liverpool, are received, we shall give an article under the head of "*Recollections of Solomon.*"

In reply to our correspondent, upon Mitchel's case, we say that we perfectly agree with him, that although his friend is a quack, he is a most exemplary private character, a good father, and an inoffensive man. We did not attack him on these points but on his *pretensions* to the healing art. We are willing to allow, that it is not Mitchel's heart which leads him into error, it is his way of living; but the public interest is concerned, and we have undertaken to defend it against quacks, therefore we are not to blame: as a good domestic character, we respect the man.

We have received a communication, in which it is stated that a fine child was taken ill, in Leathersellers'-buildings, a day or two ago, with inflammation of the lungs, or pleura, and that it died next night, *without either having been bled or blistered*, (the only remedies to rely upon in such complaints.) We would be happy to hear from Mr. Guillim, Surgeon of Leathersellers'-building, who attended the child, whether on opening the body it appeared, that it died from inflammation of the lungs, and whether the child was bled or blistered.

We are put to a vast deal of trouble, and those who apply to a loss of time, by not having some private address in letters asking advice. We again state that many of those cases will not admit of public reply, either from their extent or nature.

LENOX need only attend to his bowels, and leave off malt liquor.

Q. R. may dress the affected parts with spermaceti ointment, and not feel any alarm—he will do very well.

Let MERCATOR use a wash made of two scruples of sulphate of zinc to four ounces of water, three times a day, for some days.

C. STANLY's favor is received, we thank him, it shall go on our quacks' file.

Communications (Post Paid) to be sent to the Editor, at the Publishers. London: published by JOHN KNIGHT and HENRY LACEY, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, Johnson's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

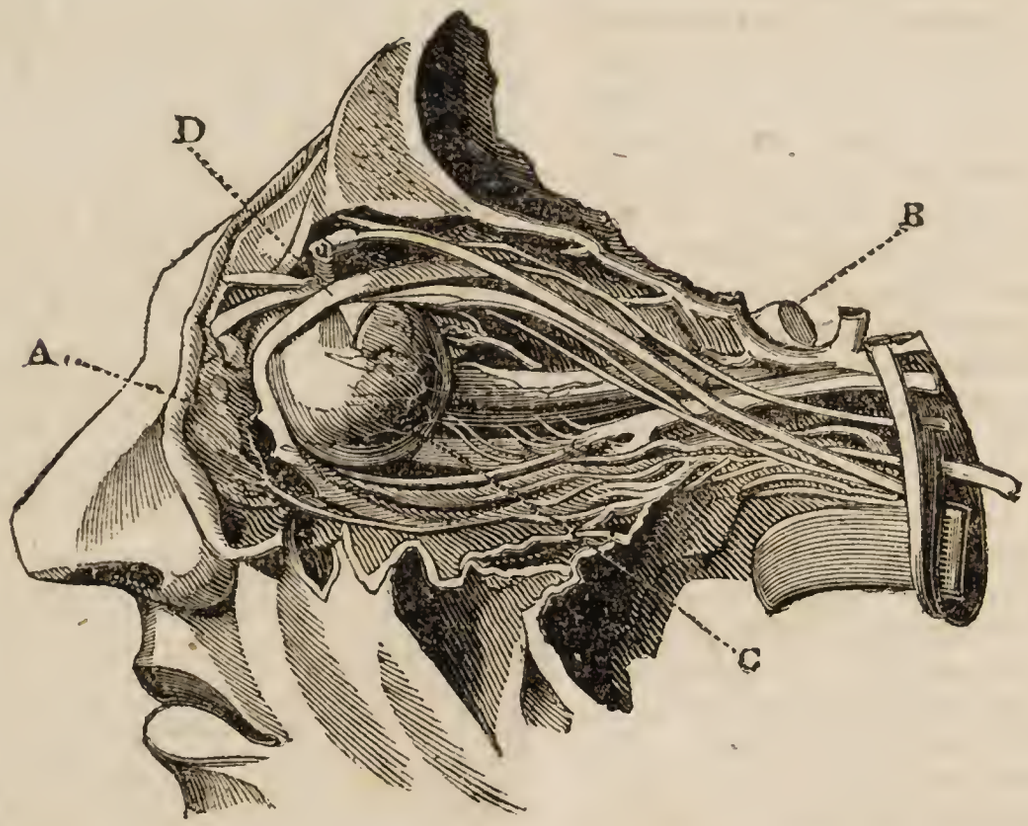
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 19.] SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1824. [Price 3*d*.



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A VIEW OF THE BALL OF THE EYE AND OPTIC NERVE.

In the section of the head which the plate of this number represents, the ball of the eye, with its great source of vision, the optic nerve passing into it from the brain, is well shewn, together with the small nerves running in the same direction to supply the surrounding parts with sensation and life. Those little muscles marked D, are supposed to have been cut from their attachment to the bone, and their office was to pull the ball outward and upward: on the other side of the ball are similar muscles. The main object of this plate is to shew the distribution of the nerves about the eye, which the above white lines represent. The dark shade at the top is where the cerebrum or fore part of the brain lay. We shall soon give plates illustrating vision, &c.

A. the lachrymal gland which supplies the tears.

B. the end of the optic nerve.

C. the ball of the eye.

D. some of the muscles, which move the ball, cut off.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

(Continued.—From Abernethy's Works.)

"FACTS are wanting, to enable us to ascertain, whether mercury meliorates and augments the secretions of the other digestive organs, as it does that of the liver. The stomach frequently appears worse during its employment, whilst the stools are considerably better; I have, in such cases, discontinued the medicine, and returned to it again if the state of the liver made it necessary. When benefit is obtained from a small quantity of medicine, we naturally expect an increased advantage from an augmented dose; this is so natural an error, that an admonition against it appears necessary. I have observed in some instances, where small doses of mercury have unexpectedly affected the mouth, that considerable benefit seemed to arise from this circumstance. Yet it is wrong, in general, to augment the dose of the medicine, so as to create even local irritation in the bowels by it. The various effects of mercury in disorders of the digestive organs cannot, I think, be understood, but by considering, not merely its local operation on these organs, but also its action on the constitution at large. When we see the biliary secretion corrected by a few grains of the pilul. hydrarg., as in the second case, we cannot but believe its action to be local. When the medicine is given in larger doses, it exerts an influence on the whole constitution, and alters the state of the nervous system. It thus controuls diseases dependent on an irritable and disturbed state of the nervous functions. But when mercury is given in still larger doses, as it is for the cure of syphilis, it never fails to irritate and weaken the constitution, and thus to disorder the digestive organs. Persons who are salivated have, as far as I have remarked, the functions of the liver and digestive organs constantly disturbed by that process. I cannot, therefore, but think that it is wrong to use mercury in hepatic affections to that extent, which would disorder the functions of the liver, if they were previously healthy. In the majority of cases the disorder has existed for a long time, and has become habitual; therefore it is not likely to be cured suddenly. For this reason we should adapt our treatment to the more rational expectation of effecting a gradual recovery than a sudden cure. The most judicious treatment will not remedy the disease, if the exciting causes continue to operate; such as improprieties of diet, agitation of mind, sedentary habits, or impure air.

"Although experience has made me think very highly of the efficacy of small doses of mercury, in exciting and correcting the biliary secretion; yet it ought to be mentioned, that in some few cases, this medicine fails to produce its usual effects, and that the biliary secretion becomes healthy without its administration. Nor is this surprising, for in general disorders of the digestive organs, one organ is more disordered than the rest, and appears to have been the cause of the whole affection. Thus the liver may disturb the functions of the stomach and bowels, or it may be disturbed by them.

"The following cases will afford sufficient testimony of the efficacy of such simple treatment as I have recommended, and which appears to be well adapted to gradually restoring the healthy actions of the digestive organs in cases of chronic disorder and disease. The treatment must be considered very deficient, as a general account of what can be effected by medicine. In acute disorders of the digestive organs, we know that nauseating medicines by exciting the secretions, often relieve stomachic irritation, and that emetics and other remedies which suddenly and powerfully affect the stomach, produce great changes in the state of that organ and of the nervous system, as well as correspondent alterations in local diseases. In some inveterate cases, apparently depending on established nervous disorder, this simple treatment has been ineffectual. Under such circumstances, the nervous affection appears to require the principal attention.

"In investigating the treatment of these disorders, it is necessary to ascertain, not only what medicine is beneficial, but also what change it produces in the circumstances of the disorder. The administration of a medicine may

in one case be succeeded by a discharge of bile, and a striking relief from long-continued and distressful feelings: yet the same medicine may be given in many other instances without the same consequence. Was the change, then, in this instance accidental? or must it be attributed to some unnoticed peculiarity in the disease or constitution?

"I have generally explained to the patients the objects which I had in view, in correcting disorders of the digestive organs, by saying that there are three things which I consider as right and necessary to the cure of disorder. First, that the stomach should thoroughly digest all the food that is put into it. The patient perceiving the necessity of obtaining this end, becomes attentive to his diet, and observes the effect which the quantity and quality of his food and medicines have upon his feelings, and the apparent powers of his stomach. Secondly, that the residue of the food should be daily discharged from the bowels: here too, the patient apprised of the design, notes what kind and dose of purgative medicine best effect the intention: and whether it answers better if taken at once, or at intervals. Thirdly, that the secretion of bile should be right, both with respect to quantity and quality. In cases wherein the secretion of bile has been for a long time deficient or faulty, I recommend, as I have said, unirritating and undebilitating doses of mercury to be taken every second or third night, till the stools become of the wet rhubarb colour. This mode of exhibiting the medicine has at least the advantage of being innocent, and if months elapse before the object is accomplished we cannot wonder at the tardiness of the cure, when we consider the probable duration of the disorder, prior to our attempts to correct it. The patient is relieved in proportion as the end is accomplished, which feelingly induces him to persevere in such innocent measures. By thus engaging the co-operation of the patient, the practitioner will, in my opinion, derive considerable advantage in the treatment of the case.

"Whenever circumstances would permit, I have recommended the patients to take as much exercise as they could, short of producing fatigue; to live much in the open air: and, if possible, not to suffer their minds to be agitated by anxiety, or fatigued by exertion. The advantages of exercise in nervous disorders, upon which those of the digestive organs in general so greatly depend, appear to me very striking. It were to be wished that we had some index to denote the strength and irritability of the nervous system, serving as the pulse does with regard to the sanguiferous organs. Perhaps the strength, agility, and indefatigability of the muscles may be regarded as the surest evidence of energy of nervous power and bodily vigour. If this were granted, however, it would follow that many persons, possessing great nervous power, have nevertheless great nervous irritability. Many people, who are extremely irritable and hypochondriacal, and are constantly obliged to take medicines to regulate their bowels whilst they live an inactive life, no longer suffer from nervous irritation, or require aperient medicines, when they use exercise to a degree that would be excessive in ordinary constitutions. The inference which I draw from cases of this description is, that nervous tranquillity is restored in consequence of the superfluous energy being exhausted by its proper channels, the muscles. When, on the contrary, the nervous system is weak and irritable, exercise seems equally beneficial; but caution is here requisite as to the degree in which it should be taken. A weak and irritable patient may not be able to walk more than half a mile without nearly fainting with fatigue on the first day of the experiment; but by persevering in the effort, he will be able to undergo considerable muscular exertion without weariness. Does not this imply a considerable increase of bodily strength, and is not the acquisition of strength the chief desideratum in the cure of many disorders? The nervous irritability also when dependant on weakness alone, will proportionably diminish with its cause. In the latter case the nervous energy seems to be augmented in consequence of our increasing the demand

for it. I am induced to make these observations, from a belief that exercise is not employed as a medical agent, to the extent that its efficacy seems to deserve: of its medical effects I entertain a high opinion; it is however right to direct patients with regard to its use, not to exert themselves for some time previous to a meal, nor for three hours after. I would prescribe to my patients the following rules: They should rise early, when their powers have been refreshed by sleep, and actively exercise themselves in the open air till they felt a slight degree of fatigue; they should rest one hour, then breakfast, and rest three hours, in order that the energies of the constitution should be concentred in the work of digestion; then take active exercise again for two hours, rest one, then taking their dinner they should rest for three hours, exercise two, rest one, and take their third slight meal. I do not allow the state of the weather to be urged as an objection to the prosecution of measures so essential to health, since it is in the power of every one to protect themselves from cold by clothing, and the exercise may be taken in a chamber with the windows thrown open, by walking actively backwards and forwards as sailors do on ship-board. I also caution patients against sleeping too much; waking from sleep indicates that the bodily powers are refreshed; many persons upon first waking feel alert and disposed to rise, when upon taking a second sleep they become lethargic, can scarcely be awakened, and feel oppressed and indisposed to exertion for some time after they have risen. When the disorders have been long continued, they do not admit of a speedy cure; hence attention to diet, air, exercise, and mental tranquillity, are more decidedly beneficial than medicines. Surgeons in London meet with frequent and convincing instances of the efficacy of pure air. Patients under the irritation of a local disease, who scarcely eat or sleep in town, recover their appetite, digestion, and sleep, so suddenly on their removal into the country, as to leave no room for doubting, that the change of air has produced this beneficial alteration in their health. The whole of the plan of treatment which is here recommended is so simple, and apparently so inefficient, that its power might reasonably be doubted, did not facts attest its utility. I should not have thought it right to have thus related it in detail, but for the purpose of avoiding repetition in the recital of the cases which are to follow: and also because it seemed right to state as explicitly as possible to the younger part of the profession what are the curative intentions in disorders of this nature.

MISCARRIAGES.

What is termed miscarriage or abortion, happens before the seventh month of pregnancy, but more frequently about the third or fourth: yet accident may occasion it at any period of the nine months. There is a greater degree of susceptibility in the uterus, to act from the end of the third month, to the period of quickening; and that is the reason that more abortions take place at that time than at any other. Women of a weakly constitution and an irritable habit, women who marry too young, and those of voluptuous temperament are the most liable to this effect; yet abortions sometimes take place from a malformation in the woman. The symptoms of approaching miscarriage are pains in the loins, and lower region of the abdomen, flaccidity of the breast, with a sense of coldness, sickness of the stomach, and a slight degree of fever. These are soon followed by hœmorrhage, which sometimes is profuse and sometimes irregular, stopping for a short time and then reappearing. This hœmorrhage is greater after the third month, than before it, owing to the enlargement of the blood vessels. In some cases of abortion, the attendant pains are continued and severe, while in others they are of very short duration; and the stomach also, in some cases is violently affected, yet in others scarcely any sickness takes place. In like manner as the symptoms differ, so does the duration of the labour; being some days in one case, and but as many hours in another.

One of the worst consequences of a

miscarriage is, that it predisposes to subsequent ones, and hence we generally find that if a woman miscarry once when very young, she generally will be so affected several times, unless the greatest caution be observed. To this caution shall our present attention be turned in advising upon the subject, as the most important to our newly married female readers. The *treatment* of miscarriages, should at all times be conducted under the eye of a medical man.

When a young woman is approaching the third month of pregnancy, and has had a former miscarriage, she should avoid all species of fatigue, both of mind and body, live upon the most wholesome diet, and if of a weak habit, take daily a glass of wine, or a little strong malt liquor, she should not sleep upon a luxurious down or feather bed, but upon a soft mattrass placed over a feather bed, and also to *sleep alone*. If she is a plethoric full woman, she should take no fermented liquors, and lose about eight ounces of blood: both these descriptions of women should keep during the whole period of pregnancy, their bowels regular, and this is to be done by mild aperients, such as magnesia and rhubarb, castor oil and Seidlitz powders, but they should avoid all pills, as, in general they contain either aloes or calomel, both of which are objectionable. If the pains appear, and symptoms seem to threaten miscarriage, the woman should leave off all motion of the limbs, lay upon a sopha and take forty drops of laudanum immediately.

There is nothing more useful in such cases than this medicine. The dose may be safely repeated next night, and if it produces costiveness, a strong purgative must not be given, but a small dose of castor oil. If rest and a dose or two of laudanum do not check the disposition to miscarriage at this crisis nothing else will, except indeed the woman be very full and sanguinous; then a little blood taken from the arm will be of great use, previous to taking the laudanum; but should she be of weak habit, bleeding would only accelerate the abortion. In like manner wine must be avoided in the former, and moderately administered in the latter.

ON PROCURING MISCARRIAGE BY DRUGS.

This practice became so general, and the effects of it so fatal, that of late years the arm of the law has been exerted strongly against it. Those young women whose indiscretion places them in a state of pregnancy, and who resort to old women and unprincipled quacks to procure abortion through the effects of drugs, know not the danger they run of destroying their own life. They think that it is in the power of medicine to operate in that way as easily as any other, and without hesitation swallow what, perhaps, puts a period to their existence; even those who administer the drugs have not any idea of the danger attached to them.

Abortion cannot be brought on through artificial means without doing general violence to the system. It is through a general debility or stimulus that the uterus is affected, and, in some cases, to accomplish an action of this description upon that part, the effect would be so great upon the whole system as to kill. Helebore, foxglove, cantharides, tartar emetic, and excessive bleeding, are generally the means employed, and although pushed as far as ignorance and criminality dare, we are of opinion that not in two cases out of ten will abortion be procured. We have seen cases in which the most distressing symptoms were induced by the use of such drugs as above-mentioned—so severe as to leave a strong doubt of recovery; yet no abortion has followed, and the unhappy girl, after suffering several days the most pitiable agony, went her full time. We cannot too warmly caution young people from indulging in the hope that it is in the power of medicine to relieve them of their shame. Let them be aware of the danger, and pay no attention to the mischievous nostrums of fortune-tellers and other criminal pretenders to this art. The following is Dr. Gordon Smith's observations upon the practice of forcing abortion:—

"The practitioner should be aware," says Dr. Smith, "that certain drugs or preparations have been more generally resorted to than others, with the

view of procuring abortion; for it may happen that the identification of an article known to have been administered to a female during the pregnant state, is an important point of proof. It must be recollected that the statute declares the criminality to consist in 'administering, &c., any medicine, drug, or other substance or thing whatever, with the intent thereby to cause or procure the miscarriage of a woman, &c.' Upon this, a person was charged to have administered to a woman a decoction of *savine*; and witnesses having been called on his behalf to prove that it was not *savine*, it was argued that this signified nothing; for if the substance administered to the woman (whether actually with child or not) was, in the prisoner's opinion, capable of procuring abortion, he was equally guilty. In this instance, however, the verdict was *not guilty*, as it appeared the woman had threatened to destroy herself, if she could not conceal her shame, and the prisoner had given her an innocent draught to amuse her. Still, however, it is proper to be aware of what drugs are vulgarly considered capable of effecting the purpose. Here let me caution those who sell these things, to have an eye to *their own* safety, at least; for by dabbling with a loose sense of its importance in this matter, they may render themselves accomplices, even though vending articles perfectly innocent."

MONSIEUR MAGENDIE'S CASE OF CANINE MADNESS.

Treated by Injection of Water into the Veins.

[The following case is written by M. Magendie himself, and copied from "Anderson's Quarterly Journal of Medical Science."]

"About noon on the 15th of October, I was requested by M. Caillard, resident physician at the Hôtel-Dieu, to come immediately to that hospital to give my opinion relative to a man in the last stage of hydrophobia. I reached it about one. Several students whom I met, told me that if I wished to see the patient alive, I had not a moment to lose. The man had already been placed in a detached room; he had on a strait waistcoat, and was agitated with most furious motions: approaching the bed, I recognized all the characters of rabies; the eye threatening, but not injected; exclamations; most violent efforts to liberate himself from restraint; change of voice; thickened saliva; and attempts to bite objects presented to him, alternating with intervals of repose. In these moments of short duration, he understood the reasoning and consolation addressed to him, but soon relapsed into fury. The sight of liquids, or a mirror, excited extreme agitation. In the morning he had swallowed a few mouthfuls of fluids, but when I saw him, a spoonful of water poured between his lips, produced frightful convulsions of the muscle of the pharynx, and was violently spit out over the assistants.—Noise, or merely touching his hair with the finger, excited convulsions of incredible intensity. His body was alternately bent and extended with inconceivable force. The pulse was upwards of 150 in a minute, and respiration interrupted. From this combination of symptoms, I could not fail to recognize hydrophobia, and the near approach of death.

"I asked if the man had been bitten, but found that his friends knew nothing on the subject. He had been despondent for some time, his strength not permitting him to continue his work as a baker; his sadness had increased after having received a letter from a woman he loved; a fortnight past he had sought relief in drinking for several days; the consequence was copious bleeding from the nose; a physician was called in, suspecting cerebral congestion, he ordered thirty leeches, and three bleedings from the arm. Notwithstanding this treatment, he had been seized with several attacks of fury, in which he threatened those about him, and drank with difficulty. His relations seeing him grow worse, and no longer able to restrain him, brought him in the night to the Hôtel-Dieu. The patient had there been copiously bled from the foot without any diminution of the attacks, which became more forcible and more frequent.

"[Here M. Magendie states that he had intended to innoculate a dog with the saliva from the patient, but that he was not able to procure a sufficient quantity.]

"The case being urgent, and bearing in mind the results of the experiments related in the first Volume of this Journal, in which I had seen the symptoms of rabies cease in dogs after the injection of tepid water into the veins, I resolved on trying this extreme measure.

"I procured a small hydrocele syringe in bad condition, and some water heated to 30° Reaumur. I exposed the patient's right arm by an incision in the strait waistcoat, I was struck by remarking several small wounds on the index finger, and another much larger placed over the second metacarpal bone, and apparently the result of a recent cauterization. The patient was unable to answer any question, and his friends not having any information on the subject, I set about exposing a superficial vein in the fore-arm, an operation rendered difficult by the constant motion of the patient. With the help, however, of five or six strong students, I passed two flat ligatures under the vessel, and made an opening in it large enough to admit the point of the syringe. It was now a quarter after one; I injected at nine times, water heated to thirty degrees, to the amount of about two pounds. On account of the bad state of the instrument, I calculate that about a dozen bubbles of air may have entered with the water.

"At each time that I injected a syringe full, I examined the patient, but he presented nothing particular, continuing to vociferate, to talk of his inevitable death, &c.; and I only stopped because I thought I had introduced a sufficient quantity of water to produce a sensible effect. The injection was finished at forty minutes after one: I tied the vein above and below the opening. Already, an unlooked for calm began to shew itself; the pulse from 150, fell to 120, was soon 100, and within twenty minutes was 80. All the urgent and violent symptoms disappeared with a promptitude which astonished the assistants; for myself at this moment I experienced the most lively satisfaction I have ever felt.

"The patient recovered the use of his senses and understanding; a calm succeeded to his fury, his eyes resumed their natural expression, the convulsive motions ceased, and strange to say, he drank a glass of fluid without any difficulty. M. Caillard caused the strait waistcoat to be removed, and the patient begged to be allowed to go down into the court in order to make water. For half an hour this request was supposed to be the result of delirium, but he repeated it so often and so pressingly, that M. Caillard consented, and was surprised to find the patient walk quietly, supported by the students to the door. Seeing that his desire was real, he was told that it would be better to make water in a corner of the room, which he did, and in a few minutes passed about a pound of turbid, yellowish urine, so fœtid, that it was necessary to remove it immediately.

"From this time, which happened an hour and a half after the injection, the patient inquired for his friends, saw them, spoke of his affairs, and gained courage and confidence.

"His state was remarkable, and not like any thing known: he was without fever, his pulse not above 80, but all the motions of the system of organic life, as the contractions of the heart, respiration, speech, &c., were performed with a rapid trembling. When any muscle was touched, it was felt to be agitated with the same trembling; in short, the morbid phenomena presented by the patient were as uncommon as his position was new.

"In the evening of the 17th, he received the consolations of religion. Whether the impression thus made was too powerful, or from some other cause, hemorrhage from the intestines took place in the night; the blood was coagulated, apparently, arterial, and was mixed with portions of solid fæces. This accident was followed by a little pain in the abdomen, which was relieved by fomentations and emollient injection.

"The improvement continued without interruption until the fifth day, when the patient complained of severe pains in the wrists, elbows, and knees.

I at first thought them the results of his struggles during the fits; but in spite of emollients they became so violent, that it was with difficulty he could support the weight of the bed clothes. The left knee in particular was swelled, as were the wrist and elbow of the same side. On the seventh day, fluctuation became evident, principally in the knee. Besides these accidents, clearly unconnected with the disease, and probably with the mode of treatment, another appeared. On the morning of his arrival at the Hôtel Dieu, M. Caillard had judged it necessary to have him largely bled from the foot. In consequence of his sudden movements in a state of exasperation, two lancet points had been broken in the inner side of the tibia. These foreign bodies excited violent inflammation of the foot and back part of the leg, of which the patient complained much, and every thing denoted the formation of a large abscess in these parts.

"These symptoms seriously threatened the life of the patient; nor were they the only ones; vomiting of greenish fluid occurred; the abdomen became tender when touched in the region of the cœcum, and fever appeared. Some imprudent person told the patient that he had been rabid, and that an experiment had been performed upon him: from that time his mind became affected, he despaired of recovery, and feared at every moment that it was intended to suffocate him; in short, on the eighth day all hope of recovery was lost, and he died in the early part of the ninth; his death presented nothing remarkable; he sunk in a state of imperfect delirium.

"The body was opened twenty-two hours after death, in presence of a great number of physicians and students.

"*Dissection.*—Our attention was first directed to that which had evidently caused the death of the patient: we found a large abscess in the back of the leg, occupying the space between the heel and the projection of the calf. We found the two lancet points still sticking in the inner side of the tibia, and surrounded by pus and the inflamed periosteum.

"We found the joints of the knee, elbow, and wrist of the left side filled with pus, and their synovial membrane highly inflamed. The cartilages, as often happens, did not participate in the affection.

"We did not expect to find any serious lesion of the intestinal canal, as no very striking symptom, connected with that part, had appeared; but the hemorrhage from the anus, and the pain which took place, indicated that it could not be altogether healthy; in fact the mucous membrane towards the termination of the small intestine, was reddened by the injection and developement of its veins; this redness extended in a slighter degree as far as the jejunum. At the junction of the ileum with the cœcum were a dozen small superficial ulcerations; the largest were three lines long, and two wide; that they were recent, was proved by the corresponding mesenteric glands being but little swelled, and not changed in structure. The large intestine, pharynx, œsophagus and stomach, presented nothing worthy of notice.

"One remarkable phenomenon, was the decided putridity of the blood. It was every where fluid and had given out a large quantity of gas, which distended the heart and great vessels, and had caused sub-peritoneal emphysema of the stomach and intestines. The lungs were healthy, though somewhat loaded at the back part; the smaller bronchial divisions were red, but the trachea was healthy.

"The nervous system presented nothing remarkable: there was an inconsiderable quantity of reddish serum at the base of the cranium, and in the vertebral canal. The veins of the brain and spinal cord were filled with red and fluid blood. The ganglia of the sympathetic nerve were in their natural state. The little wounds and the scar on the hand were examined attentively, and all present were struck by the analogy of the wounds with bites, and of the scar with the effects of recent cautery.

"It results from this history, that a disease presenting all the character of rabies, ceased on the introduction of a pint of warm water into the veins; that the patient survived this intro-

duction eight days; that it did not appear to have produced any accident; and that death was caused by a local disease, unconnected with hydrophobia and the new mode of treatment.

"The hope of curing rabies by injecting water into the veins, already resting on some experiments on animals, hence acquires additional probability. It may even be possible, as some of my learned associates at the Hôtel-Dieu have suggested, that the same measure may prove useful in certain extreme cases, in which the common resources of medicine are inadequate."

CASE OF NOSTALGIA—OR PINING FOR HOME.

NOSTALGIA is one of the most singular diseases consequent upon nervous derangement. The name is derived from νοστος, *return*, and αλγος, *grief*; the French call it *mal du pays*, and we have no English name for it as yet:—perhaps *home-sick*, or *pining for home*, might be as good as any. The disease is not very common amongst us, except with the Welch. The Swiss and the Africans who are taken as slaves to the West Indies, are the most liable to it. It is said to be more common amongst the inhabitants of mountains, when they travel from their home, than any other people.

It is said that when the Swiss soldiers go from their own country to fight, many have deserted under the feelings which bring on this disease, particularly when they hear their favourite airs played or sung. The following case completely pictures the disease:—

In the Military Hospital of Bourdeaux, when the British troops occupied that town, a young soldier of the 53d was admitted a patient. His age was about nineteen; he was a Welchman, and the history of the case is this:—he enlisted, in a fit of drunkenness, but a few months before, and from the time of his embarkation for Spain, he was seized with the most profound melancholy. In landing at Passages, a port in the province of Biscay, he was obliged to be carried on shore; scarcely took any nourishment, and was incessantly talking of home, sighing, and lamenting his absence from his native mountains. The hills about San Sebastian so reminded him of Wales, that he almost wished he was dead before he left that country. His comrades observed that he grew worse on the march, and a little before the battle of Orthez he was taken into the Military Hospital, and from this was forwarded to Bourdeaux by carriage.

When the medical officer to whose charge he was consigned (Assistant Surgeon Maginn) saw him for the first time at the Hospital, he seemed perfectly indifferent to what was going forward; would answer no question, not even open his mouth; and his eyes were fixed in a vacant stare; nor could it be observed that the eyelids twinked. At first the medical officer supposed that he was playing off a trick, not unusual amongst skulkers, and having ordered him a cathartic, directed the orderly of his ward to pay most particular attention to the patient's manner during the day and night, but not to appear to take any notice, in order that if he really was pretending, he might thus be discovered. The Orderly slept next bed to him, and on the following day declared that he scarcely could hear him breathe, and that in whatever position he was placed, he still remained until again moved by the Orderly. On the next visit, the Surgeon tried by every means in his power to make him speak or open his mouth, or even to make any voluntary motion without effect. The pulse was slow, and scarcely perceptible, evidently pointing out the true nature of the disease, and having learnt from the patient's comrades that he was in that lethargic state for eight days before, it was thought necessary to treat him as a case of real disease. Hot brandy was immediately ordered, and the Surgeon himself put, with difficulty, some of it into his mouth, and he swallowed it, but the pulse did not rise. A little hot chocolate was then procured, as his comrades said he always seemed to like it, and the cup was placed in the patient's hand. At this moment, which was about ten o'clock, in the morning, the Surgeon was called to a different part of the Hos-

pital to an accident, and was occupied in his duties until half-past two, when, on returning he found the poor Welchman in the very same attitude, with the cup of chocolate in his hand, and the men in the ward declared he never moved a hair's breadth since the chocolate was placed in his grasp—four hours and a-half!—Active treatment was now adopted according to the Surgeon's own idea of the case, and that was, first, to administer a drastic purgative with strong aromatics, and ordering a good portion of hot wine to be poured down his throat. On the next day he had the man stripped and brought down to the yard, where half-a-dozen men, each holding a pail of cold spring water, stood upon a height above where the patient was placed, and one after the other showered a full stream upon the top of his head.—About the fourth pail, he sunk off the chair, and was slightly convulsed. He was then removed back to his ward, and rubbed well by two strong fellows with coarse towels for at least half an hour. He was then put to bed and wine given, when it was perceived that his pulse was much fuller, and there was a hot glow upon the surface of the skin. The Orderly said he slept and snored during that night, seeming to breathe loud, which he did not before. The bath in a similar manner, was repeated next day with considerable advantage, for the man spoke several words, and shed tears—the third day the same, with still more advantage; and so on until the sixth, when he conversed freely, looked florid in the face, and eat his provisions without assistance.

Care was taken during the whole of this time to impress him with an idea that he was ordered to England, and that he was to be discharged, In three weeks the poor fellow recovered, and to make his situation as comfortable as possible, he was employed as a Surgery Man in the Hospital, where he grew very healthy, and declared that he did not remember any thing since a short time after he landed in Spain, until his disease was removed.

This singular disorder has been considered by Physicians to be nearly the same with

CACHEXIA AFRICANA; OR DIRT-EATING,

Known by the name of *mal d'estomac*, with the French. It is, however, in our opinion widely different, although arising perhaps from similar causes, and much easier to be removed than Nostologia, inasmuch as there is not such exhaustion of nervous power, and remedies can be more easily put into the stomach. The disease is not uncommon in Egypt; but the West Indies is its proper seat; for, there, the most poignant slavery exerts itself upon its unhappy victims. Of late years it is confined in a great measure to these islands, which yet outrage humanity, by encouraging the importation of slaves from Africa.

The symptoms commence with all the tortures of melancholy. The sufferer cannot weep; but mopes about, sighing and courting solitude, when his mind dwells upon the wife, or the babes, or the helpless father and mother, from whom the merciless white men tore him. He looks through the desart of his soul, at the green—the beautiful spot he has quitted for ever; until the intensity of his sorrow, to relieve the animal suffering, deadens his power of thought by decreasing the sensation. All the marks of profound stupidity follow; the hapless wretch is little more in appearance than a diseased dog; and he eats incessantly clay and dirt, until he sinks from the horrid existence he possessed, and is thrown upon the heap on which he fed, unpitied even in that state by the worse than savages around him! To describe the cure of this disease would be of no use to our readers, as we hope this will never be a disease of England.

TEST TO DISCOVER ARSENIC IN FOOD, &c.

Infuse the suspected matter in a solution of vegetable alkali; after standing an hour or two, pour upon it a solution of sulphate of copper. If arsenic is present, the copper will be immediately converted into a beautiful green, and will be soon precipitated. In this way water, or the con-

tents of the stomach, supposed to contain arsenic, may be examined.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

A TEASPOONFUL of brandy with a piece of lump sugar for a sore throat—extremely injurious.

Salt or moist sugar to a recent cut:—absurd and injurious. A recent cut should be kept as clear as possible from every substance, and bound gently up with sticking plaster.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

An opening Pill for gradual effect.

Of compound extract of colocynth,
Of extract of jalap, each a scruple.
Of calomel, five grains.
Oil of peppermint, sixteen drops. Make into ten pills—one, two, or three, as occasion may require.

An Aromatic purging Draught.

Of tincture of senna,
Of tincture of rhubarb, each three drachms.
Of tincture of ginger one drachm.
Of cinnamon water an ounce—add a little syrup of saffron.—The whole to be taken.

This is a good cathartic in flatulent and nervous habits, but should not be given when there is inflammation.

HEMLOCK, ITS PROPERTIES, &c.

HEMLOCK grows under the hedges, by the road-side; the root is branching, whitish, and fleshy, and exudes when cut, a milky juice. The stem rises erect, about four or five feet high, branching and leafy. The lower leaves are very large, above a foot in length. The flowers are very small, the petals white, the outer ones rather larger than the inner: the fruit is smooth and brownish when ripe. It is distinguished from other umbelliferous plants, with which it may be confounded, with its large and spotted stem. The dark and shining colour of its leaves, and their disagreeable smell when fresh and bruised, resembling in some degree the urine of a cat.

For medical use, the leaves should be gathered about the end of June, when the plant is in flower, the small leaflets picked off, and the foot-stalks thrown away. The picked leaflets are then to be properly dried; and as exposure to the air and light destroys the fine green colour of the plant, and injures its active qualities, the dried leaflets must be preserved in boxes, completely filled by gently pressing down the leaves; then covered with a closely fitted lid, wrapped in paper and sealed; or if powdered, the powder may be preserved good in closely stopped opaque phials, for many years.

The odour which properly dried hemlock leaves bears is strong, heavy, and narcotic, but not so disagreeable as that of the fresh leaves; the taste is slightly bitter and nauseous. They are easily pulverized. The powder should retain the beautiful green colour of the leaves. The acrimony only of the fresh leaves is lost in drying, but the narcotic principle remains uninjured, if the operation be well performed. The virtues of conium are extracted by alcohol and sulphuric ether. To the ether it communicates a very deep green colour, and when the tincture is evaporated on the surface of water, a rich dark green resin remains, in which the narcotic principle of the plant appears to reside; it contains the odour and taste in perfection, and half a grain produces head-ache and slight vertigo.

Hemlock is a powerful narcotic, and is used as such internally, and as an external application. Struck, whose publications first brought it into general notice, rated its powers too high, and the multitude of discordant diseases which he enumerated as yielded to it, led many sober men to doubt its efficacy altogether. Hemlock is nevertheless a useful narcotic, and if it has not succeeded in curing cancer in the hands of British practitioners, it has been advantageously used as a palliative in both scirrhous and open cancer, abating the pain and allaying the morbid irritability of the system; it has also been found serviceable in chronic rheumatism, in scrofulous syphilatic, and other ill-conditioned ulcers, and glandular tumours, in pertussis, and the protracted cough

which often remains after pneumonic inflammation. An over dose of it induces sickness, vertigo, delirium, dilatation of the pupils, great anxiety, stupor, and convulsions. The best antidote is vinegar, after the stomach has been evacuated, and the cerebral excitement reduced by bleeding and purging.

The powder of the dried leaves if well preserved, is the best form of this remedy. Hufeland recommends the the fresh expressed juice, from twelve to sixty drops. The dose of the powder is three grains, gradually increasing it every day, till a slight vertigo forbids its further increase."

THE TREAD WHEEL.

From Dr. Mason Good's Second Letter.

"THE excellent work on 'Distortions' lately published by Mr. Shaw, who has studied the subject, in all its bearings, with a closer attention and keener eye than almost any other individual in the profession, offers an admirable and important commentary upon the principles here advanced, and supports them to their utmost extent: and I venture earnestly to recommend it to the notice of the able Committee here adverted to. A part of this work consists of an express investigation of the ligamentous and other injuries resulting to the feet and ankles, from a painful and unnatural employment of these organs. His examples are taken from opera dancers, and are directly applicable to the twist produced by the tread-mill. 'It may be observed, that the ligaments of the ankles of some of the most admired dancers are so unnaturally stretched, that in certain postures, as in the Bolero dance, the tibia nearly touches the floor. So bad, indeed, is the effect occasionally produced by a frequent stretching of the ligaments, that the feet of many of them are deformed: for the ligaments which bind the tarsal and metatarsal bones together, become so much lengthened by dancing and standing on the tips of the toes, that the natural arch of the foot is at length destroyed.' Mr. Shaw concludes with the following general position, that one of the most obvious and probable sources of distortions of the limbs (and in the present instance it applies to the hands as well as to the feet), is to be found 'in the cessation of the actions of some particular part, or in the undue and partial exercise of others.' These remarks ought particularly to be studied by our prison surgeons, who have so strangely ventured to recommend these sources of distortion as a valuable mean of giving additional health and vigour to the muscles called into use, and particulary as a preservation against varixes in the legs."

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

M'DONALD, the Kent-road humbug, is not yet ready for inspection. He positively should have come up this week, were it not that a friend of his wife, who promised us a most interesting history of him, is out of town. Already, the information we have got concerning him is sufficient to rank him in the scale of ignorance, impudence and infamy, with Eady or Jordan—but the picture is not yet complete. Next week positively his portrait, framed and glazed, shall be stuck up in our cabinet of curiosities. In the mean time we present our readers with a few odd scraps.

The following is a true copy of a letter which appeared in the Lewes Weekly Paper, called "literary curiosity."

Mr. HEDITUR SUR

Dec. 25th, 1823.

BEING in siveral companis lately an hereing Mr. Doctur Lade spoke verry unrespectfully off I think it my Dooty to akquante the Publick by yore verry valuble Jurnal cuncarning a kure which he as dun in my hown obsurvation You must no sur that for siveral jenerasions past thare as bin a Crazems in our famely an althow my sun was ministurd to by verry heminent Docturs he was still in the famely way an I do verely believe sur he wud never (by Gods gracius provedents) got better if we hadunt hered of Mr. Lade who sur as Delivured him from this Hevil an he is now sur aftur to years confinemint quite well an sencebul When I hered of Mr. Lade furst sur an tak

my sun to him siveral pepul lafed at me an called me cruel and louse an sich like nonsensical and Blasfemus names but sur this is to inform um if they lieks to cum an ce that they wel be sorre wat they avised—Sur if you will put this in one corner of your paper I shall be much oblige to ye

I am sur your dootiful &c.

P. S. I shall pay the Post.

[This letter was written by Lade himself, by the way of puffing off his own talents; a pretty specimen of which his letter is.] Ed.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

There is a person living at East Grinstead, Sussex, of the name of Hounsome, who is a wholesale and retail druggist, horse doctor, &c., he prepares calves' cordials,and gripe cordials, which I believe are very valuable articles for farmers and graziers; but he is not content with doctoring horses, cows, calves, and sheep, but is trying his skill on his fellow creatures, at least those who are simple enough to purchase his medicines. He prepares pills and medicines of various kinds, as substitutes for other patent medicines. I saw one of his bills a few months ago, containing a list of them,I cannot say exactly the number, but I think there were nearly twenty; the following are a few of them : antibilious pills, to answer the purpose of the celebrated Dixon's pills, worm lozenges, equal to Ching's, and Godfrey's cordial, of which lazy nurses are so fond to pacify restless children ; the others were all of them to answer the purpose of some previously invented patent medicine. He is different from the generality of quacks, for instead of charging enormous prices for medicines, his plan is to charge a lower price. Is it reasonable to suppose that a horse doctor can necessarily understand the nature of the diseases of the human frame? if he should happen to kill a horse or a cow, however valuable to the owner, it would be of little consequence compared to the life or health of one of his own fellow creatures. And allowing that the patent medicines prepared by Dixon, Gall, Hooper, Inglish, Ching, &c., are remedies for the complaints they profess to be, let the inventor have the profit of his article, and not encourage one who is endeavouring to imitate them all. If this Mr. Hounsome can be placed in the list of quacks, and you think him worthy of your notice, "shew him up."

W. S. K.

The above case is one of the many that blister the public. The druggists have lately got into the habit of not only taking upon themselves the duties of the professionally educated men, but each makes up some pill of his own, as a general remedy, which he sells enormously dear. These productions of ignorance and stupidity, do as much harm as the Rakasiri or Zura, by bringing on an habitual state of costiveness. We shall soon observe more fully upon this injurious practice.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

I beg you will have the goodness to insert the following account of Empiricism or Quackery, and you will much oblige a number of your constant readers.

Sir,

The legislators in almost every civilized society, have considered them as pests and a disgrace to every country where they are to be found, and penal laws have therefore been enacted for the suppression of quackery. The colleges of physicians were instituted in different kingdoms of Europe, to examine all persons who undertook the practice of the art, to inspect all drugs in the apothecaries' shops, and destroy such as were unfit; and there can be no doubt but their power extended to the examinations of nostrums in general, and on their report, the venders were subject to severe penalties. In the reign of James I., an order of council, grounded on former laws, was issued for the apprehension of all quacks, in order to their being examined by the censors of the College of Physicians; on that occasion several mountebanks, water tasters, ague charmers, and venders of nostrums were fined, im-

prisoned, and banished. This wholesome severity, it may be supposed, checked the evil for a time; but in the reign of William III., it became again necessary to put the laws in force against these base vermin and miscreants, in consequence of which, many of them when examined, confessed their utter ignorance to such a degree, as to be unable either to read or write: others it was found had been attempting to procure abortion in unfortunate single women; several of them were discovered to be fortune-tellers, match-makers, fraudlers, pimps, and bawds; some of these miscreants were set in the pillory, some put on horseback, with their faces to the horse's tail, with their noses and lips slit, and their necks decorated with a collar of urinals, and afterwards, whipped, imprisoned, branded, and banished.

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient,
A Cosmopolite.

Infamous as the list of quacks was at the time such law was past, it could not surpass the following: *viz.*

Eady, the Wall Chalker—a haberdasher.
Jordan, alias Levy—a Jew pedlar boy.
Cameron the Water Taster—an oil and colourman.
Lynch the Stricturer—a black footman.
Gardner the Worm Maker—a whip'd-out foot soldier and turner.
Mrs. Johnson, the Soother—an apple-stall woman.
M'Donald—a cow boy, afterwards a tailor.
Courtenay, alias six names—a * * * * * * * *.
Peed—a brewer's dray-man.
Davis, alias Levy—brother to Jordan.
Lamert, Sen. and Lamert, Jun.—German pedlars.

Then a whole host—Caton, Friedberg, Samuels, Mitchel, Van Butchel, Simpson the Pill-man, Norton, Sir C. Aldis, Goss & Co., Hahneman, Poll Webster of Whitechapel, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

"DR." JORDAN.

THIS fellow has returned to town from a less successful tour, than he has had for a long time, for which 'tis said he blames the "*d——d Medical Adviser.*" In some places he did a good deal with his Rakasiri, but he was absolutely hooted in others.

We were informed that the boys assembled round an inn where he was, and continued their uproarious attack upon him, in which they alluded without ceremony to his *pig-purloining*, until they obliged him to decamp by the back of the house.

Since his return he has purchased a new carriage, and discarded the big black caravan, in which he used to rock about the streets of London, and which we described in a former number. Whether it is this addition to his consequence, or the hooting about the pig, or both, which caused him to address the following letter to us, we know not. We have every disposition to give publicity to every thing the "Doctor" may think proper to state in defence of himself, and therefore publish it and the enclosed certificate.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I WONT to no what you meen by tacking my karacter as you doo you rite in your book that I mede awey with a milkmans pigg but I wood ave you to no sir that sich like slander shall not be suffered to pass. You also say that I was a penced pedlar this I dispise and say it is a ly. I never hokd pencels I only tuk orders for em, and even if I did it is no affere of yours I got my bred onnestly. Now sir you will see by the Sertitficate I send what a ly you told about the pigg or wether you out to minchun sich like about any Docters karakter. As to my balm of Rackasiri I defy you What rite ave you to run me down hent I as good as Dr. Soloman that you never minchoned, and tho your corrispondint at Brimagum says I robbd him hand did him no good by the Rakasiri I say in return that he tells has grete a folsood as yourself for he got much better only he gru lame but I will rite to his mother Mrs. Besely about it. I understand that you are a going to tack me again and this is to warn you that I wont stand

it no longer. If you rite hany more of your lys about me Sa velp me God I shall persecute you in the Kort of King's bench. As for the man at Gloster that rote to you to say he wood horse wip me, I wish you wood let him no that too can play at that game. If I got his money dident he get my balm of Rakasiri.

I remane
F. Jordan
Doctor of Phisick.

Poscript

You wood doo better to tack the regular doctors than me for they har proper rogues every won on em.

(The enclosed Certificate.)

" This his to sertefi that Doctor Jordan never stole hany pig belongin to me whatsomever that I'll be upon my oth nor did I ever say sich a thing but I said I found the pig in his back premussess and I since found out to my satisfacshun that he bot the pig onnestly from the man that tuk it away from me and that is now transported for other things. I am willin to come forred to prove my words and to say that Doctor Jordan never did me no harm whohomever

(Signed) James Cox X his mark
13, *Ivy-street, Radcliffhiway.*

The Cancer Doctress near Kennington has the following boast in large gilt letters upon her shew board.

" All *incurable* diseases *cured.*"

This *lady* with Sir C. Aldis, and all those who pretend to cure an established cancer by main force, should be tied up like mad dogs, to keep them from doing harm. Who can read the letter about the above mentioned mock knight in our last number, and not agree with us in the opinion?

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Tenth Hussars. In our last number we stated that *the sprig of the fine*, which we mentioned by his initial W. was still in the regiment. We must contradict it. He has left the army some time since.

Force of Imagination. It is told of a set of medical students of Trinity College, Dublin, that, in order to prove the force of imagination and fear upon the mind, they seized a poor clown, who resided in the neighbourhood of the university, and having tied him neck and heels, carried him into the dissecting room, where

" Mangled limbs lay strewed, and bodies ghastly,"

and having told him that they meant to try an experiment upon him, by " striking a dagger into his heart, so as to pierce it through to the backbone," they laid him, all stripped, and terrified as he was, down upon a table, blindfolded his eyes, and after appropriate sounds, words and movements, let fall from a height a stream of cold spring water, poured from the nose of a tea kettle upon the naked pit of his stomach, which had such an effect upon the poor fellow's imagination as to deprive him of life. He groaned and soon after expired. We cannot vouch for the fact, but it is quite possible.

Mr. Conolly.—We are informed that this unfortunate gentleman has directed his friends to supply him with a complete set of surgical instruments, with all the new inventions, and a complete chamber medicine chest. There is no doubt that he will be of the greatest utility to the colony from the great want of medical men there; but there is less doubt that he will be one of the first in the country, going as he is, covered with misfortune, and unpolluted by crime.

Dr. Gairdner on Iodine.—The author, we perceive, in the well written Essay before us, is an advocate for this medicine, with which he has been successful in a considerable number of cases. We learn, however, that it has turned out very differently when prescribed, in similar cases, by others. May not this, in some instances, have arisen from the following shameful circumstance?

" I have," says Dr. Gairdner, " sent prescriptions for the hydriodate of potass to several chemists in London, and my prescriptions were said to have been made up; but, in a few days afterwards, when I called at their shops, in order to examine the medicine, I discovered that they were not even aware of the existence of such a drug."

" If such is the practice of druggists, and we fear it is but too much so, we cannot depend on any medicine which we ourselves have not seen made up."—*Anderson's Med. Journ.*

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Y. Z. is informed that his letter was mislaid. If he sends us his case, he shall have an answer by return of post, or in our next number.

We have again to remind our Correspondents to annex some address, for the reason we have before mentioned, namely, that many cases are of such a nature as to require private answers. We also request that such as address us a second time, after having received advice, will observe to mention, first, the name or description of the disease; second, the medicine and regimen prescribed, and third the effects. It will save us a vast deal of trouble.

Omega should syringe the little girl's ear with a lotion made of half a pint of warm water and twenty gains of sulphate of zinc, thrice a day, always warm.

The Old Women's Remedies are received, and shall be inserted. W. C. is informed that the Medical Adviser will have both title, index, and frontispiece, to each volume, gratis to subscribers: the first volume will be complete in thirty numbers.

T. C.'s communication has come to hand. We thank him. Martin Van Butchel has certainly, according to his advertisements, treated the poor fellow for fistula in a way "*peculiar to himself.*" We will give our readers a view of this evil. The quackery he describes as followed by Druggists and Chemists, shall be examined under the head of what is called "*Counter Practice,*" as great an evil as the *Wall Chalker.* Every ignorant shop-boy who knows no more of the drugs, than what regards their price and weight, now presumes to apply them to disease. As well might an ignorant oil and colour man pretend to the Art of Rubens, and give lectures on painting, because he sold the colours.

A. C. R. will much oblige us with "Scraps" of Stanton, he is so far secure that having practised before the late Apothecary's act, he is free, but a good subject for just remark.

A man of forty, will find his request in this number, under the head of Useful Prescriptions.

X. Y. Z. was unavoidably left out last week. He may find benefit from a warm plaster on the back between the shoulders used for a month or two; and he should take five grains of squill pill and five grains of extract of colocynth, every second or third night.

W. W. was also unavoidably left for this week. We thank him for his communication. He would do well to leave off the opium, and instead, take acetate of morphine, beginning with small doses, that medicine is opium deprived of its constipating and stimulating qualities. He should also take a scruple of cream of tartar every night or second night for a fortnight or so.

ALPHA'S communication has come to hand—Caton is certainly worse than Eady—We must try what can be done with him.

T. B. must take a strong purgative once a week, and drop a clean penfull of this lotion into his eyes twice a day, 5 grains of sulphate of zinc to an ounce of water, it may do some good,

To K. W. S. thanks.

Many of our friends must lie over till next week.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, MD.

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CAROTID ARTERY.

THE plate of this number represents the ramifications of the carotid artery upon the face and head. The muscles of the face are laid bare, and the parotid gland, which secretes the saliva, is shewn. The carotid artery is dissected clearly from the fat and muscles, and its inferior end, as appears in the plate, is the part which suicides wound in cutting the throat.

A. the Carotid Artery.
B.B.B.B. branches from it.
C. the Parotid Gland.

DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

We have now concluded the opinions of Mr. Abernethy upon indigestion, and previous to our entering upon our own, perhaps it will be acceptable to our speculative readers to give a short sketch of the digestive organs. We intended to give the opinions of other writers upon the subject, as well as Mr. Abernethy, but to say the truth, we cannot find in all the writers upon the subject any thing that will give our readers a more full view of the disease than we have given from Mr. Abernethy's works. We shall ourselves endeavour to throw a different light upon it, and not we trust unsupported by reason; but this we shall reserve for the next number, and at present merely sketch the organs and process of digestion as clearly and as briefly as possible.

The stomach, from it internal surface, secretes a fluid called the gastric juice, and this with the saliva from the mouth, form the agent of digestion. This combined fluid has the specific quality of acting upon *dead matter only*, and it has been found to dissolve the stomach itself when that organ has lost its vitality, and as a proof of this, the stomachs of men who were hung, on being opened some hours after death, were found dissolved by the gastric juice at the inferior end. It is probable that the sensation of hunger is produced by the irritating qualities of this fluid.

The food being taken into the stomach, is grasped tightly by that organ, and the internal surface laying thus closely in contact with it, gives out its gastric juice, which dissolves the external surface of the masticated mass already mixed with the saliva of the mouth, this dissolving falls to the bottom of the stomach, leaving the indigested portion behind to receive the same effect, and so on until all the contents are dissolved into a semi-fluid called chyme, which passing through the inferior orifice of the stomach, gets into the intestinal canal, and immediately meeting with the pancreatic juice and the bile, which both flow into the intestine by one common small duct, or the two joined into one; from their respective glands the pancreas and liver mix with the chyme, and produce a chemical effect; that is, separates the nutrimentive portion from the gross and useless matter. This nutrimentive fluid is called chyle, and is taken up by innumerable little mouths of vessels, which ultimately end in a duct, which runs up along the spine, and empties its contents into the junction between the left internal jugular vein * and the subclavian vein, thus affording nourishment to the blood. The useless matter of the food then passes slowly downward through the numerous convolutions of the intestines.

With regard to the fluid which is taken into the stomach, it is taken up more rapidly into the blood by the small vessels above mentioned, and is discharged by the kidneys and the skin, as well as furnishing a material for the other fluids of the body. And in proportion to the quantity of drink taken into the stomach, if the habit is healthy, the kidneys rapidly secrete its fluid, and pour it into the bladder. It at first appears strange that such a quantity as two gallons of beer can be taken thus into the blood and discharged in the course of a night, but that is the fact, and when we calculate the quantity of fluid which goes off by the pores of the skin in exhalation from the lungs, and in fluid from the kidneys, it does not appear so astonishing. In our next number we shall give our advice upon the treatment of indigestion.

CORNS.

The hardness upon the toes, and other parts of the feet, are in general too familiar to most of our readers to require description. The cure, however, will be necessary to dwell a little upon. When corns become large and painful, they ought to be pared closely down with a sharp knife, or razor, and the centre hard point detached without giving pain. Previous to this operation, the feet should be kept in warm water for half an hour, in order to soften the parts, to render them more free to the knife, a plaster

* A view of this duct is given in the plate of No. 6, of the "Medical Adviser."

composed of equal parts of compound galbanum plaster, and plaster of ammoniac, with mercury spread upon linen, applied round the toe, and continued upon it for a fortnight, when it should be taken off, the feet again bathed for half an hour in warm water, and the corns again cut, when a similar plaster should be applied. Some have found great success in merely cutting the corns, as above described, and keeping their feet in warm water every night for a month, cutting the corns whenever they appeared; but wearing no plaster. It is needless to mention, that tight shoes must not be worn.

HICCUP.

THERE are three species of this affection; namely, that arising with drunkards, which sometimes lasts a long time: that attending an accidental, and harmless derangement of the stomach; and that which is symptomatic of approaching death.

In hiccup arising from excessive indulgence in fermented liquors, if it lasts after the intoxicating effects of the liquor are past, a drink of clove tea will stop it; and to make this tea, put twenty or thirty cloves into half a pint of water, and boil for a quarter of an hour. This tea may be slightly sweetened and acidulated.

In hiccup arising in otherwise healthy people, a sudden fright: or holding the nose, and drinking slowly of cold water; or swallowing a little vinegar, or lemon juice, or a few drops of sulphuric acid, in a glass of peppermint water will relieve it. These latter remedies may be sometimes advantageously employed in severe cases of hiccup from any cause. In hiccup arising out of some alarming disease, like mortification or in fevers, there is little use in remedies; however a plaster of galbanum may be placed on the pit of the stomach, and if that does no good, a blister. As a prescription for obstinate hiccup, the following, with a blister, may be used.

Take of tincture of opium, thirty drops
——— ether twenty drops
——— cinnamon water, an ounce—mix, and take the whole.

An Appeal to the Public and to the Legislature on the Necessity of affording Dead Bodies to the Schools of Anatomy, by Legislative Enactment. By WILLIAM MACKENZIE.

"THE healing art is plainly a handicraft, of which the subject is the living body. If the handicraftsman know the structure of the body, he will operate upon it dexterously and to much good purpose, but if he know it not, he will mangle and abuse it. The art of surgery differs from other handicrafts only in this, that while they are exercised upon dead matter, on stone and wood, and iron, this is exercised upon the moving and sensible body of man. When the mechanic errs in working, as from inexperience or carelessness he may sometimes do, he throws the spoiled materials from him, and coolly resumes his labour upon others; but when the bungler in surgery errs, his hand trembles, and his heart fails, he hears the frightful cries of his victim, and sometimes sees him expire under his hand. The error he has committed is irretrievable; he has destroyed a fellow-creature.

"It is true that a living being and a mere mechanical engine are not exactly upon a par; and that a medical practitioner may sometimes seem to set the one to rights, although he knows little of its structure, while any attempt to mend the other by a person who had not previously taken the engine to pieces, and examined its several parts, would be at once pronounced a proof of folly and presumption. That a medical practitioner may sometimes contribute to rectify a disorder, although, from his ignorance of anatomy, he may not be able to tell what part of the body appears to be affected, and much less what is the intimate structure of that part, and what its relations to the parts around it, is a fact which depends entirely on the constant tendency in diseased nature to restore itself. This constitutes a striking difference between a disordered living body and a disordered mechanical engine; and upon this difference, is built the different success which occasionally attends the medi-

cal practitioner ignorant of anatomy, and the artist who should pretend to mend a machine, the structure of which he had never studied. Such an artist men would treat at once as a knave; but so unreflecting is the world, that such a medical practitioner is still treated as honest, and is even not unfrequently regarded, by those who happen from the excellence of their constitution to escape out of his hands alive, as a man of no inconsiderable skill.

"If the productions of art possessed the same advantage with the living body; if when the movements of a machine were by any accident impeded, it had within itself the power of throwing out the obstructing cause; if when a spring chanced to break, it could solder itself and heal spontaneously, we might then see men rise to eminence as mechanics, just as we often see men rise to eminence as medical practitioners, without understanding the principles of their art, and without knowing one wheel or lever from another of the particular engine which they treated. But as no work of human art is endowed with the faculty of self-restoration, the artist is under the indispensable necessity of understanding the structure of his subject, and the laws by which it acts. Those who apply to the art of medicine ought to follow, and ought not merely to be permitted but ought to be obliged by law to follow the same plan, and to study the human structure and economy with as much assiduity and minuteness, as if, like the watchmaker, they had nothing to depend upon but their knowledge.

"Indeed, the necessity of anatomical knowledge to the surgeon is so plain, that it is sufficient only to know what surgery and anatomy mean, to see that they are inseparably linked together, and that a man might as well talk of running a race and winning it, whose limbs were struck with palsy, as of going a single step into a sound knowledge of surgery, without a previous practical acquaintance with anatomy.

"If no adequate opportunities are provided for exercises of this kind, only one other mode will remain, by which surgeons can acquire dexterity in their art, and it is one which I shudder to mention. It will be by practice on the living bodies of the poor. The rich will always have it in their power to select the surgeon who has enjoyed opportunities of studying his profession as it ought to be studied, or has already signalized himself by his success. But the poor upon whom operations are rarely performed at their own houses, will find themselves placed on their admission into public hospitals, under the care of young men, who will be forced (it is to be feared) from the blind illiberality of the age, to learn upon them, what they ought to have learned upon the dead; and who will seek to become surgeons of such institutions, for the very purpose of acquiring that dexterity which will enable them to operate upon others with better success.

"I can conceive nothing more cruel—nothing more truly unlawful, than to flatter on a sick man to that courage which is necessary for undergoing a severe and dangerous operation, and then to take up the knife with the hand which never took it up by the side of the dead subject. Is it to be wondered at, if the surgeon's resolution is appalled, when the terrible thought rises before his mind, that his patient's life now depends on the mere chance of escaping from his unskilfulness, and that in the very operation which he has recommended as a means of relief, he is about to expose a fellow-creature to new and instant dangers, against which, a practical knowledge of anatomy only could have provided?

"But upon whose head, let me ask, is the guilt of this horrid sacrifice to ignorance? The surgeon is but the officiator. The worshippers of ignorance, who surround him, and who force him on, are those who have impeded, and who would yet more impede the study of anatomy—those, who in order to give an idle *protection to the dead*, would not hesitate to render the healing art little better than a cruel mockery of the distressed. If it be true that he who wilfully impedes assistance to the wretch who is expiring from a draught of poison, is

equally guilty with him who mingled it, and with him who gave it, then he who by the least unnecessary action, or by the least unnecessary word, opposes the study of anatomy, is neither more nor less than a murderer. By his opposition, he, as it were, poisons the balm of medicine, which promised to give a little ease to horrid suffering—he puts out his foot to make the surgeon stumble, who is running with help to the wounded and dying.

"Would to God that the eyes of the public were open to the consequences of their idolatry of the dead! They would then spurn with contempt the plans of those ignorant men, who have vapoured over their midnight bowl, that they would put an end to anatomy, blind to the widely disastrous effects, which their plans, if carried on, must speedily produce on the best and dearest interests of humanity. Instead of seeking to degrade the anatomist, or to disturb him in his pursuits, the public, if they rightly understood the matter, and could for a moment listen to reason, not to passion, would be eager to honour and to assist a man, who for the sake of relieving the sufferings of his fellow-creatures, can take up his abode with death and corruption, make the most loathsome objects on which eye can ever look his familiar associates, and even risk his life in acquiring that knowledge which is to enable him to preserve and restore the health of those who hate and persecute him.

"The schools of anatomy in Great Britain have never been supplied with a sufficient number of dead bodies to fulfil, or nearly to fulfil, the important purposes already explained. The number of murderers, whose dead bodies have been given for dissection, has never been sufficient to supply even the public professors of anatomy, much less the private teachers; and upon the whole, the making of dissection a punishment has been much more injurious to the interests of anatomy than beneficial. This practice has naturally excited in the minds of the vulgar, a horror at the examination of the body after death, under any circumstances; and for this reason, if any thing is to be done by the legislature for the promotion of anatomy, the clause of our criminal code by which dissection is made a punishment, and the anatomist degraded below the common executioner, ought in the first place to be repealed.

"The only other means by which the schools of anatomy have been supplied with dead bodies, has been by exhumation. Against this practice, there has of late years arisen such a clamour, and such means have been adopted to prevent it from being continued, that dissection for students is now altogether unattainable, and even the teachers of anatomy find it very difficult to continue their public lectures.

"An increasing desire on the part of medical students to be acquainted with anatomy, has of late years naturally increased the number of teachers, and the demand for dead bodies. Unfortunately some of these teachers have been careless with regard to the modes which they adopted for procuring subjects. Exposures have consequently taken place, and by these the public attention has been roused. The newspapers have lent themselves, with a few honourable exceptions, to be vehicles of the most foul and perfidious defamation of anatomists. Even judges on the bench have descended to use a vindictive and vituperative language, ill-becoming their place, and their supposed knowledge of human affairs. All these causes have conspired to create a jealousy of anatomy, which it never merited; and ultimately to produce associations for guarding the places of interment, and even avowedly for putting the study of anatomy down.

"To discover whether any human action be right or wrong, we have to inquire into its tendency to promote or diminish the general happiness. If the question be, whether the exhumation of dead bodies be right or wrong, we inquire into the tendency of such a practice to the public advantage or inconvenience. If the question be, whether a man who removes dead bodies from the place of interment, ought to be punished or protected, we inquire into his design,

whether his conduct sprang from a desire to do a wanton outrage, or from a wish to qualify himself and others for the practice of a useful and honourable profession, the *whole* of the tendency of any action must, as far as it is possible, be investigated; for there are few human actions which are not followed both by good and by bad consequences; and, in order to discover whether such actions are right or wrong, the whole of the good consequences must be fairly weighed against the whole of the bad consequences. Carelessness and feebleness of mind would, no doubt, gladly escape from the tiresome discussion of opposing and entangled interests, but unless the key of moral actions just explained be put to use, there is a danger that simplicity will be imposed on in its judgments, and industry and virtue in many cases discouraged and trampled on by the prejudiced and the interested.

"The bad consequences of exhumation are,

"1. The distress undergone by the friends of the dead persons taken away.

"2. The violation of property, in disturbing the grave and the apparatus of burial.

"3. The shock given to the feelings of the public, by the discovery that a dead body has been torn from the place of sepulture, to which it had been solemnly consigned, and by the suspicion that the same has happened or may happen to others

"4. The apology which this discovery affords to the mob for riots, by which lives and property are indiscriminately exposed to danger.

"5. The additional expences incident to protecting the places of burial, which in many cases will be called for, when they can be but ill afforded.

"6. The dangers to which those are exposed who remove dead bodies for the purposes of anatomy. They are frequently students of medicine; and have often been seriously injured, and sometimes murdered by grave-watchers.

"7. The dangers to which teachers and students of anatomy are exposed by this system, from dissecting bodies in a putrid state.

"8. The frequent and inconvenient interruptions to the studies of anatomists from detections of exhumation, and the harassments and expenses to which they are thereby exposed.

"9. The indifference towards the adoption of legal and sufficient means for supplying the schools of anatomy, which is produced by the general belief that the system of exhumation, even under every mode of interruption, is still sufficient for that purpose.

"These are evil consequences of the system of exhumation which are undeniable; and which could find their palliation only in an overwhelming counter-weight of advantages, attainable only by that laborious investigation which is termed dissection, and which presumes to the dissector the possession of the dead body. The system of exhumation was altogether inadequate for the complete supply of the schools of anatomy, yet as every dead body stolen and dissected, by the instruction which it became the means of affording, carried with it the health and the lives of thousands, I judge that those who have associated for the purpose of depriving teachers and students of the scanty supply of dead bodies which this practice afforded, without attempting, or previously proposing any substitute, have acted precipitately and unjustly, and especially that those of the better ranks are to blame, who have sanctioned such associations, which, when first proposed, would, but for their patronage and pecuniary support, have in all probability sunk into the nothingness of a mere drunken exasperation.

"It is well known that in London, the procuring of dead bodies is still more difficult than it is in Scotland; so that it has become, beyond contradiction, impossible for students of medicine to acquire a sufficient practical knowledge of anatomy, in any part of Great Britain, except at an expense of time and money amounting to a prohibition. The LEGISLATURE, then, is loudly called upon by the circumstances of the times, to bring forward a measure by which the schools of anatomy shall be supplied at a reasonable rate, without having longer to encounter the perplexities, dangers and

insufficiencies, under which they have laboured for so great a length of time.

"I shall suppose the period of study to be three years, and that in each of these years a careful dissection is to be made of all the most important parts of the body. This will require one dead body for the muscles, a second for the blood-vessels, and a third for the nerves. The viscera may be studied partly in one, and partly in the other two of these three dead bodies. Now, in the course of three years, two students will require nine dead bodies, to which we will add a tenth for the repetition of the principal surgical operations. Such I consider as the most moderate computation which ought to be admitted; although it cannot be denied, that comparatively few surgeons of the present day have enjoyed opportunities of carrying their anatomical studies even to the length here proposed. Double the number of dead bodies I have here stated would, I think, be little enough for the acquirement even of a moderate knowledge of anatomy; but, at least, evidence of the student's having carefully dissected five dead bodies should be produced, before the granting of any diploma in medicine or surgery.

"Supposing the number of students in London to be 400, the number of dead bodies required annually in the metropolis would be 600. Add dead for 200 students at Edinburgh, 200 at Dublin, and 100 at Glasgow, the total number of dead bodies required annually in the empire for preliminary anatomical instruction, would be 1350, to which must still be added 300 dead bodies annually, for the repetition of surgical operations, making a total of 1650 dead bodies annually for the use of students alone. Supposing farther that there are 30 teachers of anatomy in the empire, each of them will require for his public demonstrations, on an average, 10 dead bodies annually, making an addition of 300, or a total of 1950. By the dedication then of 2000 dead bodies annually to the purposes of anatomy, the health and happiness of twenty-one millions of men may be very materially promoted. And though from the novelty of such a calculation, the number of dead bodies here stated may sound as if immense, yet when compared with an annual mortality of 500,000, it will appear as almost nothing.

"Nor will the hospitals, infirmaries, workhouses, poorhouses, foundling-houses, houses of correction and prisons, find any difficulty in furnishing the number of dead bodies required; and that without any extraordinary sacrifice of feeling on the part of the friends and relatives of the deceased. The annual number required, according to our calculation, is in London, 766; in Edinburgh, 383; in Dublin, 383; and in Glasgow, 191. Now, granting that Edinburgh and Glasgow could with difficulty supply their respective numbers, they could be furnished from Dublin and London, or even from either of these towns alone. There is no reason to suppose that the number of dead bodies appropriated to anatomical purposes in Great Britain and Ireland, has ever amounted to 300 annually. How easily could this small number be supplied! How much good could be effected even by this small provision, furnished with regularity!"

THE TREAD WHEEL.

(Continued.—From Dr. Mason Good's Second Letter.)

"THE whole dispute, therefore, seems to depend upon the soundness or unsoundness of this principle alone; and all that has been said or written on both sides, may be comprised within the capacity of a silver penny. It is, moreover, a principle of universal application, and may be applied by any one to other animals as well as to man.

"I have already called your attention to the ease and freedom of natural action which we give to a horse on a journey, and by which he is enabled to fulfil it to any reasonable extent, and at any reasonable rate, without exhaustion or loss of flesh. But cramp him in any way you please, either by an uneasy saddle, or shoes too tight for his feet, so as to prevent their having a proper bearing, and what will be the consequence? the precise result which follows on the tread-wheel labour for

man. In a quarter of an hour, even with a slower pace, he will be thrown into a profuse perspiration, and if he be still pushed forward, he will fret and flag and fall away, and be not only rendered unfit for his present work, but, it may be, for all future employment. Slacken the pace as much as you will, diminish the term of labour as much as you will, give him as many feeds as you will, you only act by palliation; you diminish the evil but do not cure it; he will still pine and be dispirited. You may possibly reduce the toil so low as, by means of a rich diet, to prevent him from falling away in flesh; but I put it candidly to the distinguished members of the Medical Committee, whether they would ever recommend such a plan for giving increased vigour to the muscles of a horse? and whether they think it 'may be employed not only without injury, but with benefit to his health?'

"This part of the subject has, indeed, been but little attended to in many of its bearings by most persons.

"Even the committee of the Prison Discipline Society have observed, in their last report, that 'there is nothing painful in the simple position of the body on the wheel;' and in a late debate on the tread-mill, in the House of Commons, it was repeatedly stated that 'the prisoners could sustain no excess of exertion, as the descending steps of the wheel were perpetually coming down to them,' instead of coming down with them; as though they were standing at ease on the platform, instead of being converted into a part of the mechanism itself, and clubbing their distorted muscles to strike out a primum mobile. And in like manner, the committee of the society just referred to, tell us gravely in their fourth report, that the tread-mill 'induces moderate and uniform exertion, in an erect and unrestrained position of the body; *weight* not *force* being requisite in the operation:' while the exact converse of the whole of this is much nearer the truth. For the exertion, so far from being moderate, throws the whole frame, as we have already seen, into a state of profuse perspiration in the course of ten or twelve minutes; so far from being uniform, is subject to very frequent jerks, and other interruptions, which the engineers affirm it is beyond their skill to correct; to say nothing of the breakings of the main shaft, and the accidents which are its necessary result; at the same time, that the body, so far from being in an erect and unrestrained position, is thrown from its right line into a greater or less degree of incurvation, and tilted forward from its natural fulcrum of the heel to the awkward and merely provisional prop of the fore-foot. And that the heel alone constitutes the natural fulcrum of the human column is obvious to every one who pays attention to the substitute of a wooden leg, when the limb itself has been amputated; the bottom of which consists of nothing but heel. The fore part of the foot, indeed, might be added; but what would be thought of him, and what would be his fate every moment, who, being in possession of so cumbersome an appendage, should give up the support of the wooden heel, and prefer standing or hobbling on the wooden tip-toe?

"And, in like manner, instead of weight and not force being requisite in the operation, it is the force alone, the action and struggle of the muscles, that produces all the labour. If the prisoner, instead of treading, were quiescent, as in a pair of scales, he would undoubtedly contribute his weight alone, but there would be no labour whatever. And, hence, to maintain such an assertion as the present, is entirely to confound the man with the machine; which, indeed, is not much to be wondered at, considering how closely he is put into fellowship with it. The mill itself works by weight, though by no means altogether so; for the momentum is equal to the weight; but the man works by force, by the wear and tear, the urgency and violence of his muscles.

"Under this explanation, then, there is no difficulty of accounting for the severity of the tread-mill labour at all times, and its inequality in respect to persons of different statures, constitutions or habits of life; nor is there, in consequence hereof, any difficulty of accounting for that otherwise ex-

traordinary limitation of the term of labour which the medical committee have sanctioned, and which, in effect, amounts to a virtual prohibition of the machine. But the difficulty I feel is this, that, while such an explanation fully justifies the prescribed limit of labour, it calls in question the concluding clause of the opinion I have thus ventured to controvert, that such labour, however limited, 'may be employed even with benefit to the health of the prisoners.' "

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

Butter spread upon coarse brown paper and applied to the throat, to cure a huskiness and soreness of that part.

We cannot see on what principle such can cure. We are however assured that it has been successful.

A poultice of onions to bring a swelling forward. Linseed meal is better.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Syrup to remove Hoarseness from Relaxation.

Infuse one drachm of scraped horse-radish in a wine glass of boiling water, in a covered vessel, and add sugar sufficient to make it syrup. Swallow a tea-spoon full at intervals slowly.

This not to be taken in hoarseness from cold, and that attended with inflammation, but in chronic hoarseness.

OXALIC ACID TAKEN FOR SALTS.

On Monday an inquisition was taken before C. J. Jemmett, Esq. at the Crown and Cushion public-house, Bermondsey, on the body of Mr. John Bell, late clerk in the employment of Messrs. Barber, wharfingers, of Tooley Street, who died on Thursday last, in consequence of taking oxalic acid, in mistake for Epsom salts.

Mr. Thomas, of Page's-walk, Bermondsey, in whose house the deceased lodged for the last fourteen years, deposed that on the night of the 8th instant the deceased came home about half past 10 o'clock; he asked witness's wife for some hot water, which he said he wanted for the purpose of dissolving a dose of salts he wished to take, and which he had purchased that day. The water was given to him, and he retired to his bed-room, adjoining witness's. Soon after witness's wife heard the deceased groaning, and on entering his room he appeared to be in dreadful agony, writhing about the bed. Witness said, "My God, Bell, what have you been taking?" Deceased replied, "Oh! I shall die: what have they given me?" Witness immediately went for a surgeon, but the deceased was quite dead on his return.

Robert Craker, a hair-dresser in that neighbourhood, deposed, that he had been acquainted with the deceased for the last fourteen years. On the evening of the 8th inst. the deceased came to his shop, sat down, and got shaved. He then complained of having a very violent stitch, or cramp, in his side, and said that he had taken rhubarb, but derived no benefit, or alleviation of his pain, from it; that he was then going home early, for the purpose of taking a dose of salts, which he said he had got in his pocket. The deceased then went away.

One of the Jurymen asked witness, if he perceived any alteration in the deceased's manner or behaviour on that night. Witness replied that he did not, although the deceased appeared to be labouring under very severe bodily pain; yet his mental faculties were not in the slightest degree affected.

Mr. Castle, the surgeon, deposed to his having examined the body of the deceased, which presented the usual appearance of persons who died in consequence of taking any active mineral poison. In the room he (witness) observed a tumbler, that deposited a sediment, which, on examination, he found was oxalic acid. A small portion of that active poison also adhered to a piece of paper which was on the drawers. Witness added, that the deceased must have taken nearly an ounce of the poison.

The Jury here inquired, if the constable, or any of the witnesses, had ascertained at what shop the unfortu-

nate deceased had received poison instead of salts.

W. Painter, the constable, said that every inquiry had been set on foot by them to ascertain that fact, but they were unsuccessful.

The Jury reprobated the conduct of apothecaries, through whose negligence, in not properly distinguishing between salts and poison, so many fatal accidents had happened.

A verdict of "Deceased, in consequence of taking oxalic acid in mistake for Epsom salts," was then recorded.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to the professed impartiality of your valuable Adviser, I trust you will have no hesitation in inserting the following comments on your correspondent A. C. R.'s letter, "the West End of the City" *Druggist;* for such his language clearly proves him to be; keeping in mind at the same time, the Latin proverb, *veritas vincit omnia.* Your correspondent evidently wishes to bring grist to his own mill, or, in plain terms, custom to his own shop. This would be all fair, if done in an honest and upright manner, even if at the expence of a most respectable and useful body of men. He says that his apothecary charges him 2s. 6d. for each draught. Now, Sir, I have been thirty years in a very extensive practice, as an apothecary, and never once in that time, have seen, or heard of such a charge being made, (to the Royal Family excepted.) Such was the price charged to them at the time I had the honour to be assistant to a gentleman, then apothecary to the household, but long since deceased; or when compounded with musk, or some other expensive medicine: and I believe I may assert the same, as to mixtures, which even to the higher class, seldom exceed the charge of 3s. or 3s. 6d., and I will even dare to defy his contradiction.

But, Mr. Editor, if A. C. R. has been thus egregiously imposed upon, why do you not with your professed declaration of exposing frauds and extravagance in the profession, at once openly state the name and address of the gentleman so accused? Your silence is a direct reflection, I had almost said, libel, on the profession. But if you have any doubt or fear on this head, you can have none in giving that of A. C. R. and thereby affording the apothecary an opportunity of refuting such accusation; you make no scruple, and the public feel indebted to you, in exposing the frauds and extravagant charges of the quacks; and why make a distinction of this kind. Is it that your Adviser is only open to one class of men, or that you fear an exposure of this kind would subject you to any unpleasantness? I will in defiance of A. C. R. assert that there is not half-a-dozen apothecaries in London, who charge more than 1s. 6d. for a draught, and 2s. 6d. or 3s. for a mixture. Now A. C. R. says he gets the former for 10d. at a chemist's, and better: this I deny; and you, Sir, must know, that the medicine sold by an apothecary is liable to inspection, while those by the chemist are not so:—the mixtures he also gets for 1s.6d. But pray, sir, does he set no value on his apothecary's advice and visits? It cannot, Sir, affect your practice, as a physician, to set him right; it would only show a true spirit of liberality. You could tell him ninety-nine times out of one hundred, the apothecary, is physician, surgeon and apothecary; and yet I believe you will seldom find them backward in calling in the aid of the former. If your correspondent was seized with inflammation in the bowels, God help him if he had to wait for relief from his *chemist.* Neither could he suppose his apothecary would become a stop-gap for the chemist, by bleeding, while the latter was deriving all the profit from preparing his medicine.

You, Mr. Editor, also know very well, that such charges, as A. C. R. states, are liable to be reduced, in any Court of Justice, if made by a respectable practitioner.

With all these facts before you, I trust you will call on A. C. R. to allow his apothecary to refute the charge he brings against him.

An Apothecary of 30 years' practice at the West End of the Town.

April 6th, 1824.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

THIS is the age of medical writing and of medical reading; yes, truly a very physical age. We have popular remedies, and popular medical works, systematic and desultory: with such information as now abounds, it is a matter of some surprise, that so little discrimination exists, as respects the relative merits of the professors of the healing art, and in fact in almost all which concerns the means of restoring health, the public seem to reason upon principles widely different from those which guide them in the ordinary affairs of life. Not that there is any difficulty in the subject, or that it requires any peculiar mode of investigation, but from some cause as yet unexplained, we see the great bulk of the community, committing their lives, and the lives of their children, to the medical care of those, of whose competence they have no evidence, and in many cases of whose incompetence they may have abundant proof.

This is more especially the case in cities of great extent, and in this metropolis it is notorious: a city where the fact is the more to be lamented, as we abound with practitioners in the various departments of the healing art, who are ornaments to their profession, and honors to the age in which they live; men as general practitioners who, by birth and education, and scientific attainments, are highly respectable; whose studies in classics, mathematics, and philosophy, have been carried beyond what is perhaps absolutely required for the common routine of practice; whose moral character is unblemished; whose manners are genteel, and dispositions kind and benevolent, and age mature; yet we do see such neglected, and would that there were few such instances. Perhaps they have too much delicacy of feeling, and too much honour, to push themselves forward, by means which are commonly resorted to, by the ostentatious ignorant: perhaps the time and labour they spent, in collecting stores of information, which are to be wasted on the desert air, secludes them too much from the public view; yet they bear their own atmosphere about them, and have those evidences of merit, which cannot escape the observation of any one of common sense or common discernment. Some at length, in despondency leave a profession, which, so far as it is a source of emolument unworthy of them, and find in the exercise of those accomplishments which have been acquired as ornamental, ample remuneration, though less grateful to their feelings, than a bare subsistence would have been from an occupation to which they were passionately attached, and which they could not leave without casting many a longing, lingering look behind—nec prosunt domino que prosunt omnibus artes.

It is a duty that the public owe to society, it is a duty that each individual owes to himself, to encourage those who are labouring to raise the profession of medicine and surgery to respectability in the country, and to hunt up genius and industry, to look through patronage and names to facts of an interesting and important nature: it is a duty, the neglect of which is cruelty and injustice. It is well known to every educated man in the profession, that families of respectability, are supporting those whose education are of the lowest kind, who have no legal authority for practising; whose continual blunders are notorious, whose manners are uncouth, and whose moral characters such as will not bear investigation. It is a well known fact, and disgraceful as true, that many of the most licentious have the greatest share of obstetric practice.

Every family previously to employing a practitioner, should ascertain that he has been regularly educated as such; this may be readily discovered by a call at the College of Surgeons, where lists are kept for public inspection, and at Apothecaries' Hall, where information may also be obtained. These simple precautions would exclude a host of pretenders. It is to be hoped the day will soon arrive, when genuine medical talent will be duly appreciated and rewarded, and when mercenary pretenders will be shunned by an enlightened and liberal public. The highest and the lowest

members of the profession only are supported, but the middle and respectable classes are too much neglected.

AN APOTHECARY.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

"DOCTOR" MACDONALD, *the Beer and Cheese Quack, Kent Road.*

SCOTCHMEN in general are remarkable for economy, industry, and perseverance, in that pursuit which obtains for them the good things of this life. They are therefore not so frequently disappointed in their hopes; and hence there are not so many thieves, swindlers, or quacks to be found amongst them, as other people. These qualities do not wholly forsake them even in the most degraded and infamous order of life into which chance may have thrown them; and whether as highwayman or quack doctor, they profit by them sometimes so far as to recover a sort of negative respectability. Macdonald, the person who calls himself "Doctor," and who resides at the Kent-road, is a striking example of this; for his life has been unenlightened by learning, and unbiassed by virtue, yet has he managed to get himself into a fine house, and to live like a London Alderman.

He was originally a cowherd, and made his *entré* amongst the English people at the tail of a Galloway heifer. He protected a drove of cattle up to Lincoln, where our informant lost sight of him, until he found him practising as a *physician* in the Kent-road. Another account fills up this blank in his changeable life by making him an invalided marine, and subsequently a tailor.

Like all other quacks, he began by privately administering his nostrums for various disorders, resorted to alehouses, and by getting into conversation with his pot companions, *gudgeoned* one or two occasionally to take his medicine; and by economy, industry, and perseverance, crept on from penny pills to *pounds* of physic, until he "*got his name up*;" and now "*Doctor Macdonald, of the Kent-road,*" has gone down poor, simple, all-believing John's throat, teazing and tearing his intestines with the highest degree of success! Amongst the lower orders of the people who have been deceived by this fellow's humbugging, and took his cheese and beer for sound medical knowledge. Many say —"O, go to Doctor Macdonald." This buzzes abroad, and if he only gets one fool in ten, the purposes of the rogue are fully answered.

Let our readers calmly look to the following plan which this public deceiver has adopted, and they will all agree that a more artful and imposing one could not be adopted by the most subtle scoundrel. Regardless of human life or human suffering, he has invented a system by which thoughtless ignorance is birdlimed to its destruction, and its groans smothered in the drunken voices of the crowd. He, finding that a great number of the poorer classes, who run from hospital to hospital, and quack to quack, beset his lodgings, in the hope of getting cured for *nothing*, bethought himself that if he could get from each even a penny, the sum of the day would probably yield him 4*s.* or 5*s.*, which, with *economy*, might do for a time; and that he would also have as good a chance to legerdemain the pockets of those penny patients; accordingly he established a kind of waiting-room, in which the poor people assembled, and to each person who came to "*consult the Doctor,*" his man (a person hired at ten-pence a morning) exacted one penny for a ticket of admission to the "wise man." This took well; there was something novel in the practice. A patient looked at the ticket, and almost felt himself a bounden patient to the "Doctor." Business increased: his waiting-room filled; and now his finances permitted him to add another spring or two to the machine of disease and destruction. He employed four or five poor people, who possessed plausibility and a "*gift of the gab,*" to place themselves at different parts of the room, and there, for the space of three hours (for the artful son of the North took good care to have the worth of his money out of his talkers, exalting "the Doctor" to the skies. "O, my dear, he *his* a most vonderful man: Aye, that he is! he cured me of a can-

cer in the liver, bless you, ven I vas nineteen weeks laid upon the broad o' my back, and Dr. Bailey and Sir Hashly gave me up. My back bone vas mortified, and I had an information in my guts. Aye, indeed, *my* prayers shall always go with Doctor Macdonald verhever he goes;" and so on. In order, then, to give a fillip to those who might perhaps detain them too long, as well as to a *whet to conversation*, he always sent in by "*his man*" a can of beer, with some bread and cheese, to be served round to the patients. Could any thing be more disinterested!!! He soon saw that a little advance upon his admission tickets would make no difference to his customers, and would be something solid to him; he therefore encreased the sum to *three-pence*, which, from 100 people, would make 25*s*.—no bad thing daily for a cowherd, or even for a working tailor. This was *sure* money, and the devil's in it if "Doctor" Macdonald could not shake six-pence or a shilling more out of each for medicine. So we see at once how pence become shillings, and shillings pounds.

The system of his consultation was this:—At eight o'clock he admitted the three-penny patients, one after the other, until ten o'clock, when his wife (a picture in herself) roars out at the foot of the stairs—"Doctor, it is ten o'clock, and the half-crown patients are all waiting." This is repeated three or four times, and then the remaining *three-pences* are told that they must come again in three days; thus giving them an opportunity of extolling the beer, the bread, the cheese and the chat, for that time. The sapient Satrap then admits the half-crowners, which are of a more respectable class, and entertains them until twelve, when the wife roars out again—"Doctor Macdonald, the half-guinea patients are all ready, it is twelve o'clock."—So on until three, when the *guineaers come*, or rather are *said* to have come, by the stentorian Jezebel, in order to free the house, and give them an opportunity of counting their ill-got gains.

This is the Kent-road Quack's system; and there could not be a better for his infamous purpose.

Now for a few anecdotes of his practice and ability:—A poor girl had been persuaded to go to him for advice; her disease was *a slight induration of the breast*. He told her to make herself quite easy; that he would soon cure her; it was a cold. He used various torturing applications for about six weeks, when the pain became excessive, and the breast much more enlarged, and harder. Her friends saw that the quack was only plundering her of health and money, and took her to the London Hospital. She was taken into that establishment, and on Sir William Blizard's examining the case, he declared it to be cancer. "Who treated this case before the girl came to the hospital?" demanded Sir William. Mr. Andrews was present, and said that it was "Doctor Macdonald." "Doctor Damnation," said the worthy Knight, in a passion; "how can you, Mr. Andrews, call such a scoundrel a Doctor." The poor girl's breast was cut off the next day, and she recovered. Sir William told this himself.

Case 2d.—A poor man went to him with a sore leg, and after a few minutes conversation, the quack told him he would make a new leg of it. The patient paid his demand, half a guinea, besides his three-pence admission, and he got a bottle of stuff, a little of which he poured upon the leg before he quitted the "Doctor." The torture he felt was dreadful; and on going home the bottle broke in his pocket, when he found that "*the medicine*" burned his pocket quite through, as well as the skirt of his coat. The leg was considerably swelled the next day, when he wrote to M'Donald, to say that if he could not "*make a new leg for him*," without *burning off* the old one, that he should see him no more on the subject.

Case 3d.—A poor woman brought her son to him, with a swelling on the neck, just over the collar bone. The "Doctor" stripped the boy's neck, examined the tumour with his fingers, and told the mother that it was an abscess, and that he would puncture it; but that he should have half a guinea down, and a guinea on curing the boy. This agreed to, he placed the devoted boy with his back to the wall,

and made a deep incision with a large abscess lancet. The contents of the tumour gushed out: it was not white, but a florid red colour. Alas! it was the poor child's HEART'S BLOOD—HE DIED INSTANTANEOUSLY! *This did not come to the ears of the world—money and solicitation from the "Doctor" prevented it; but we call on him TO DENY IT IF HE DARE.—This case cries out with a thousand tongues—"*Where is the law?*"

With such facts before the public, can they hereafter confide in such an ignorant presumer? If they do, they deserve the consequences.

This abominable quack has now got a house fitted up as an infirmary, where he kills by wholesale. He charges the inmates so much for curing, and for board and lodging; doses them as he likes. without controul, and dismisses them when they can pay no more.

We can scarcely bring our minds to be facetious, when we think of the last case mentioned; but as the anecdote we are about to relate will throw further light on the professional talents of the "Doctor," we shall not hesitate to give it to our readers.

Mr. ———, a cheesemonger in Blackfriars-road, who had spent two days at Epsom races, felt those effects which not unfrequently attend such enjoyments, namely, a most painful headache, and a general bilious attack. His wife, kind woman, sent for Dr. M'Donald, to relieve "*herself*," as she said, "from the noise and confusion which her husband created in the house." The quack attended, muttering, as he entered the shop, "*cheese pays well.*" Down by the bed of the drunken monger he sat, and having gone through all the usual forms of a physician, he gravely told the lady that her husband's head must be shaved, and a blister immediately applied. "Eess, sir," was the reply; and forthwith the barber was called, and a blister sent for.—Thus all snug and *comfortable* he left his patient, first having ordered six rounds of cheese, to shew that he had a feeling of gratitude, but which order he took particular care not to pay *ready money* for. The next day M'Donald paid his visit, and found the patient sitting up, eating a rump steak, and in jolly good health.—"Why, man, ye are weel again."—"Ah, to be sure, Doctor, well as ever." "Ye see," replied the Doctor, with the most elevated consequence, "ye see what active remedies will do; I weel kenn'd your complaint, it was a dizziness o' the head, and nothing on earth could a saved ye but the blister."—"O, d—n the blister," ejaculated the cheesemonger, "it was the most abominable thing I ever felt; curse me if I would not rather die than suffer such a one again."—"Heigh man, nonsense, your'e weel now; and the deel crack my croon if ever I performed such a cure in my life. Why, sir, the head in such case must run into a madness, and the brains become like a rotten egg, if a blister is not instantly applied, an every Doctor in the world will allow it. You were a deed man, Sir, if it was not for the blister."—"Why, Doctor," besimpered the wife, "it was a queer place to blister him, and so every one thinks; for my part, I would sooner die than suffer such a strange thing."—"Pooh, woman, have I not cured him by it? Hoot! ye dinna ken my practice. Come, take off the night-cap, and let me see it."—"Night cap! the deuce, man, its not there, its here," says the cheesemonger, stripping down the blankets, "look at your work!!!" The fact was, that the blister had slipped down from the head to the tail, and there stuck fast, to the no small trouble of the patient.—The wife ran out of the room!!!

Newington "Army" Medical Board next.

* This was a case of Aneurism.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

A NEW DISEASE.—When an inquest is held upon the bodies of any of those prisoners, who die in the House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields, its members are composed of six prisoners, and six people from without. As those inquests might be sometimes productive of inconvenience to the officers of the prison, from too strict a scrutiny into the circumstances attending the death in question, the prisoners are selected from the oldest

ruins amongst the wretched paupers of the prison, and they are always in a separate room from that, when the evidence is examining, the door being left open.

In one of those inquests some time ago, the verdict was "*died by the visitation of God*," and Waddington, the little fallen patriot, was determined to ask some of the prisoners, who composed the jury, a question or two, in order to find out whether they really understood the nature of what they were officiating in or not. And of the first that came out after the inquest, he demanded what was the cause of the man's death? The poor worn out creature, after a "Sir," or two, told Waddington, "he died of a *Wisitation*." "Wisitation!" rejoined the *radical gentleman*.—"What *is* a Wisitation?" "Why sir," said the old man, feeling his stomach, "It is a kind of a windy complaint. All over here like."

Longevity.—It is extraordinary that the following remarkable instance of longevity has not been more generally promulgated. On a tombstone in Bridlington church-yard, near Bristol, appears the following inscription, in very plain and intelligible characters: "John Newman 153 years old, 1543; Old Parr in 1654 aged 152.—Newman outlived him by a year.—*Man of Letters.*

Hohenlohe has committed another "Miracle," a long account of which is in the "*British Traveller*," but which is so much of the old story that we cannot copy it. Crampton's pamphlet, given in one of our former numbers, says every thing that can be said in refuting the impositions of the Prince of Quacks.

10*th Hussars.* Since Mr. Battier's affair has been made public, the officers of this regiment, who, from great irregularities were formerly troubled with dyspepsia, have become quite *free* from *the complaint*. They are as it were, between a *cathartic* and a *sudorific*. It is said they require change of air. We think a voyage to India would be the best thing for them.

Alderman Wood.—This magistrate once had the character of humanity and charity, we are sorry to see him now taking means to obtain an opposite one, by extolling the salubrity of the tread-mill in parliament. The worthy alderman would do better, if he attended to the administration of the laws which are placed in his hands, and to leave the regulation of them to those that have wiser heads. He may be a good judge of drugs, and what are the best to *improve* beer, but his head is not furnished sufficiently to give an opinion upon the *health* of the tread-mill punishment.

The Quacks.—There is to be a meeting of the leading quacks next Monday, at the Ship, in Charing Cross, to take into consideration the "slanders" of the *Medical Adviser*, against the members of their respectable fraternity. Sir C. Aldis in the chair. We know it will be difficult to get a report of the proceedings. Perhaps some of our readers may favour us.

Glazing for common red earthenware. J. Meigh, Esq., of Shelton, Staffordshire, has communicated to the Society of Arts, a mode of glazing vessels made of common red earthenware, by a material which is free from the poisonous properties which belong to the ordinary ingredients used for that purpose:—

It is composed of one part Cornish granite, consisting chiefly of felspar.

1 part glass.

1 part black manganese.

The whole well ground together, and diffused in water, to the consistence of cream. Dip the ware in this mixture, and, when thoroughly dry, place it in the kiln and fire it in the usual way. The result will be, a solid black glaze, very permanent, and not containing any ingredients noxious to health. If an opaque white glaze is required, omit the manganese.

The common red earthenware is made of brick clay, and hence is extremely porous, it is also baked at as low a temperature as possible, to save the expence of fuel.

For the reasons above mentioned it is necessary to employ a glaze, fusible, cheap, and capable of filling up the pores of the ware, so as to enable it to hold fluids, in ordinary use, either as articles of food, or of domestic employment. Litharge, and the common potter's lead ore, are the articles usually employed, the one for the transparent,

the other for the black opaque glaze. When such substances, therefore, are cooked in vessels of common red earthenware, a quantity of salt of lead is formed, which, mixing with the food, produces violent cholics, and all the serious and often fatal effects, that attend the internal administration of the salts of lead.

The discovery of a better and more wholesome glaze, sufficiently cheap to be applied to the common red ware, appeared to the Society to be an important desideratum, and in their opinion this is now effectually supplied by the above useful discovery.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The private letters to Correspondents were dispatched on Thursday.

Poor Mary should take fifteen grains of jalap, and twenty grains of tartar, every fourth day for a month, and bathe the legs in warm water up to the knee.

" A Sufferer from Indigestion " is informed that " Towers's tonic pills, " and all other pills, from their drastic nature will never cure indigestion; they rather produce it. They are any thing but tonic. " Debilitating " perhaps would be a more proper term.

" J. N. Gracechurch Street " should have sent his address, as we mislaid his former letter. We are glad to find him so far recovered. He shall have a remedy for the acidity of the stomach when we know where to address him.

" J. Nichols " should rest and use warm water night and morning as a fomentation, it is not a sprain.

A constant reader may have a letter of advice by telling us where to direct to him. Printers in general suffer much from such complaints. Hereafter we shall consider the health of the class.

" Juvenis " will find the powders in No. 9 & 10. Those in 10 are the best, p. 168.

Let M. H. send a full case.

A man of forty will do well to send us the particulars of his case—profession, habit of body, and of mind. He shall have a letter when he may wish.

" Honestus " has again obliged us.

" An Invalid " shall have our opinion upon the new French remedy—the tonic and digestive wine in our next number. As he says it has improved his digestion, he certainly cannot do better than continue it.

How could any human being be so duped as " Peter ?" We wonder that Eady did not tell him. Let him leave off all medicine, and live well. He never had the disease.

J. J. should keep a proper truss on always, and avoid violent exercise. He needs nothing else at present.

X. X. cannot expect an answer in our paper, he should send some address.

L. need not be in such a passion. The intention of the " Medical Adviser " is to see justice done, as far as in its power, both to the public and to the profession. Why should such charges be made by an apothecary ?

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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THE MUSCLES AND MUSCULAR POWER.

The beautiful drawing from which our plate of this number is copied displays, with no ordinary power, the structure and the action of the human muscles. This essay upon the subject, we trust, may be useful to artists, as well as interesting to our other readers.

A muscle is an organ destined for performing all the motions of the body: it is principally composed of several particular fibres, distinguished by the epithet *moving*, of which one portion is fleshy, and another tendinous. These fibres are arranged into bundles or packets, situated at the side of and along each other: these bundles are included in so many sheaths, which are joined to each other: these sheaths, which are membranous and cellular, seem to be the continuations of the membrane which covers every muscle in particular.

The capillary extremities of the arteries and veins distributed to each muscle, by their numerous ramifications, form surprising pieces of network upon the fleshy substance of the *moving fibres*; and the nerves, by their most delicate divisions, seem to fix these fibres to each other.

Almost in the whole order of the muscles, we generally consider their bodies and their extremities; the body of the muscle, which is its fleshy portion, generally possesses the middle part, and is commonly called the belly of the muscle. Its extremities are called *tendons* and *aponeuroses*; they are called *tendons*, when the fibres which compose them are collected or assembled, or rather condensed, in the form of a cord; and they are denominated *aponeuroses* when these same fibres, instead of being collected in form of a cord, are spread into membranes.

The arrangement of the moving fibres is not the same in all the muscles; there are some in which their fleshy and tendinous portions describe the same line, such are the abdominal muscles, called *oblique* and *transverse*, &c. There are others in which the tendinous portions form opposite angles with the fleshy part, such are the two *musculi gemini* which extend the foot, &c. There are some whose moving fibres are arranged like rays, as is observable in the muscles of the under jaw. There are also others whose fibres form entire circumvolutions, so that their extremities meet and unite with each other; such are the *orbicular* of the eyelids, the *sphincter* of the anus, &c.

The muscles are, with respect to their moving fibres, divided into simple and compound: the simple muscles are those, in whose composition we find but one order of fibres; and the compound muscles are those, in which there are two or more orders of fibres.

We are to distinguish two kinds of simple muscles, namely, those whose fleshy fibres follow the length of the body of the muscle which they compose, advancing to the tendons or aponeuroses found at the extremities of the muscle; such are the abdominal muscles called *recti* and *transversales*, &c.

A muscle is capable of two motions, one of extension or elongation, and another of contraction or abbreviation. It is principally in this last motion that the muscle acts; its extremities at that time endeavouring to approach each other, carry along with them the solid parts to which they are fixed, if they are moveable; or only to bring the moveable part towards that which is less so, or which remains fixed during this action. If the muscle is hollow, by its contraction it compresses the substances, whether solid or fluid, contained in its cavity.

The extension of a muscle is by most anatomists only looked upon as a kind of passive motion; and we know none but Winslow who, from particular observations had advanced that the action of the muscles in general consists no less in the determined relaxation of the moving fibres, than in the determined contraction of these fibres, whether this action is performed gradually or instantaneously.

This author supports his opinion by various observations, among which we shall only instance that relating to the flexion of the head. This motion of the head, in whatever attitude, is

commonly ascribed to the contraction of several muscles, the principal of which, called the *mastoideaus*, are fixed below to the *sternum* and *clavicles*, and advancing on each side towards the head, terminate at the *mastoide* epiphyses. This celebrated anatomist shews, that these muscles only act when a person, standing or sitting with his head more or less reclined, inclines to move it forwards, which he proves by the firm and steady condition of these muscles at that time: but if a person is standing with his head upright, and wants to bend it forwards, this motion by no means depends on these muscles, but rather on the weight of the head; and the extensor muscles, at that time, by lengthening themselves more or less at pleasure, regulate that motion; for without the assistance of these muscles the head would naturally fall forwards, as we observe in those who when sitting fall asleep or are indisposed. The softness and laxity of the *mastoideai* muscles in this attitude, sufficiently proves that they do not act. From what is here said, we may see that there are motions in which the muscles commonly thought to produce them have no share, and which depend entirely on the determined relaxation of the muscles on the opposite side.

There are muscles whose motions are entirely mechanical or involuntary, that is to say, depending only on the disposition of the machine, without any concurrence or act of the will; such are the heart, the stomach, and intestines; and their contraction and extension continuing without interruption, and succeeding each other.

There are other muscles which, though disposed to motion by the natural constitution of the body, nevertheless stand in need of the determination of the will to move them: such are the muscles of the superior and inferior extremities, &c. whose motions are voluntary.

Lastly, there is a third kind of muscles, whose motions are always continued, but which the will may augment or diminish, and even interrupt for some moments; such are the muscles subservient to respiration, which the antients said had a mixed motion, and which may be looked upon as purely mechanical, when a person breathes without adverting to it, and as a voluntary motion when a person augments, diminishes, or suppresses respiration according to his will.

Almost all the muscles are seconded or assisted by others which have the same function, and which are called *congenerate*, to distinguish them from another species of muscles called *antagonist*, because they are destined for contrary actions; the flexors, for example, of one member, have the extensors for their antagonists; the *heart* has its auricles for its antagonists: the *sphincter* of the *anus* has for its antagonists not only the fleshy coat of the intestines, but also the abdominal muscles and the diaphragm.

When the *congenerate* and *antagonist* muscles act at the same time, they render the part stiff and immoveable. The action of these muscles in this state of suspension, is called the *tonic motion;* and that is called the *combined motion*, or *motion of circumduction*, which depends on the successive action of all the muscles of a part; such is the motion of the hand or arm, when a person turns the handle of a wheel, or pulls the spoke of a press, &c.

It is to be observed, that it is not only in the *tonic* motion that all the muscles of a part act together; since these same muscles also act in concert, but more or less, in order to put the part in a determined situation: for instance, to raise the arm, all the muscles which can move it in different directions cooperate to the production of this motion. Some raise it upwards, and these are the *elevator* muscles; others regulate this motion by counterbalancing it to the opposite direction, and these are called the depressor muscles: and lastly, others situated on each side direct this motion, and are called the *adductors* and *abductors* of the arm. I have before observed, that these muscles act more or less, because it is probable, that in the present case the *elevators* of the arm are in a more considerable degree of action than its *depressors*, &c.

The different situations of the

body, whether standing or sitting, also furnish us with examples of this co-operation of the muscles, which is also observable in walking, &c.

It is principally on the fleshy portion of the muscle that its contraction or abbreviation depends, during which this portion appears more inflated and hard than in the state of inaction, which is easily discovered in the muscles of the inferior jaw, &c. when they act: and if we view this fleshy portion laid bare in a living animal, we may perceive that the fibres which compose it are gathered together, and bent as it were from one end to the other, in the manner of indentations during the contraction of the muscle.

As the tendons yield but very little, they ought to be only considered as so many elongations necessary for fixing the muscles to distant parts. Thus it is observable, that the fleshy portion is found in all muscles, whereas the tendinous portions are in some so small, that they seem to be wanting.

As for the immediate cause of the action of the muscles, various hypotheses have been formed for explaining it. For this purpose, recourse has been had to the blood, the air, and the spirits, which have been supposed to act in these organs, either by simple effusion, fermentation, explosion, effervescence, &c; but however ingenious these hypotheses at first seem to be, yet they are only probabilities, which instead of carrying full conviction along with them, lay a foundation for new doubts, which they by no means clear up. In a word, it appears to us, that from none of these hypotheses we have been able to explain some phenomena mentioned by Winslow, concerning the motion of the muscles, such as the determination of this motion, its determined duration, and the determined augmentation or diminution of this duration; add in a word, the promptitude or quickness with which some of these determinations are changed and altered.

It is highly probable that the difficulty of explaining muscular motion in a satisfactory manner, arises principally from our unacquaintance with the intimate structure of the moving fibres, which has been supposed spongious, vesicular, twisted, elastic, &c.

The strength of the muscles depends principally on two things, 1st, on the great number of fleshy fibres which enter their composition; 2nd, on the greater or smaller distance between their adhesion to the part they ought to move, and the articulation on which that part moves which lays a foundation for distinguishing in each muscle two sorts of forces, one absolute and another relative.

The absolute force or strength of a muscle, is that which it only derives from its composition; and its relative force, is that which it acquires by the particular disposition of its adhesion to the part which it ought to move.

In order the better to comprehend what I have said, it is to be observed that the muscles, which are only fixed to the bones, act as so many powers upon a lever.

By the term lever we commonly mean a long body, more or less flexible, such as a bar of iron, a spoke, &c. in order to remove bodies, or raise burdens, whose resistance would be too great and sometimes insurmountable without this assistance.

In a lever working we are to consider three things, namely, the power, the fulcrum, and the resistance or weight to be raised.

The power is the force applied to the lever; the fulcrum, or support, is the immovable point on which one or both of the extremities of the lever move; and the resistance or weight is the body to be raised, or which we intend to move from one place to another.

It is to be observed that the power, the fulcrum, and the resistance, may have three different dispositions, which has laid a foundation for three sorts of levers.

The lever of the first kind, is that in which the power is at one of the extremities, the resistance at another, and the fulcrum or support between both. Paviors furnish us with an idea of this sort of lever: the hand supported on the most distant extremity of the lever, which they employ for raising a stone, is the power; the stone under which they insinuate the

opposite extremity, is the resistance or weight; and the adjacent stone on which the lever moves, is the fulcrum or support.

Scissors, pincers, forceps, &c. are also levers of this kind; but in each of these instruments there are two levers, whose common fulcrum is the nail which joins them together.

The second species of lever, is that which has its fulcrum at one of its extremities, the power at the other, and the resistance between the two. To this species of lever we refer the knives of tobacconists, whose fulcrum is at the fixed extremity, the power or hand applied at the opposite extremity, and the resistance or tobacco to be cut between the two.

The lever of the third kind, is that which has its fulcrum at one of its extremities, the resistance at the other, and the power between the two. Braziers furnish us with an idea of this lever, when in order to scrape a piece of brass or copper, they place one extremity of the handle of the scraper on their shoulder, and then laying hold of it in the middle, make the other extremity act on the piece which they are preparing. The shoulder on which the extremity of the handle of this instrument rests, is the fulcrum, the resistance is at the other extremity which scrapes, and the power is the hand applied between both.

The hand is disposed upon this instrument in the same manner as the muscles are with respect to the bones, in most of our members, and it is this last species of lever which is observable in them: for taking the leg for example, the *tibia*, which is its principal bone, is the lever; and I say that its articulation with the *femur* ought to be considered as the fulcrum or fixed point of the lever. The place of the insertion of the muscles of the *tibia*, whether the extensors or flexors of the leg below, and at some distance from this articulation, ought to be looked upon as the part where the power acts; and all the rest of the *tibia*, which is beyond the adhesion of these muscles, as the resistance or weight to be moved.

In mechanics it is a received principle, that the force applied to the lever becomes so much the more considerable, as it is more distant from the fulcrum; so that of course, the force of the muscle is more or less, according as its connection is more or less distant from the articulation on which the part moves: we ought not therefore to be surprised if in these parts of the body, where the muscles require so much force for performing the respective functions of these parts, such muscles are composed not only of a great number of bundles of fleshy fibres, but also have their adhesions or organs at a distance from the articulation on which the part moves. This is observable in the *deltoid* muscle, the elevator of the arm, the *fascialata*, the extensor of the thigh, &c.

The elevator muscles of the inferior jaw, also furnish examples of what I have said: their composition, and still more, the distance of their origin from the articulation of the jaw-bone, enable us by the assistance of the teeth to break very hard bodies, such as nuts, &c. especially if we place the bodies we intend to break between the molary teeth, according to that certain principle, that the power is augmented in proportion as the resistance is nearer to the fulcrum. The scissors, so commonly used, are sufficient to explain this principle; for every body knows, that in order to cut a card or any similar body more easily, we must bring it as near as possible to the nail which joins the two branches, that is, to the fulcrum.

But if most of our members furnish examples of this third species of lever, as I have already observed, the foot in its motions also furnishes us with instances of the other two. If, when the leg is at rest, there should be under the extremity of the foot a body which resists, and if an effort should be made to surmount that resistance, this will be an example of the first species of lever, whose fulcrum is between the power and the resistance; for at that time the foot being supposed a lever, the power or adhesion of the muscles which act, is at one of the extremities, since it is at the *heel-bone*, the resistance at the other end of the foot,

and the fulcrum, or its articulation with the leg, between both.

The lever of the second species, where the power is at one of the extremities, the fulcrum at the other, and the weight between both, is observable when we stand upright on the points of our feet; for then the fulcrum being on the point of the foot, is at one of the extremities of the lever, the power at the other, that is at the heel, since it is there that the extensors of the foot which are in action terminate, and the burden or weight of the body is between the two.

EDITOR'S OPINION ON DYSPEPSIA; OR, INDIGESTION.

HAVING laid before our readers the opinions of Mr. Abernethy fully, with our own sketch of the digestive organs and digestion, we shall conclude this important branch of disease by a concise advice, in which our general readers will see at once the road to cure and prevention.

The food which should be avoided by dyspeptic people, is that which is tough, acescent, oily, and mucilaginous.

The flesh of full grown animals is more healthful than that of young, except beef.

Fish is not easy of digestion, nor is it so nutritive as is generally imagined.

Venison is good, and so is game, and eggs in moderation.

Soft bread is not so good as stale, or biscuit.

Fresh vegetables, from their tendency to ferment, are bad; and so are home made wines.

Cold fruits are bad, particularly melon. Grapes, strawberries, gooseberries, and currants, are the wholesomest.

Turtle, mock-turtle, and all other soups: as well as fat, cheese, milk, and butter, &c. should be scrupulously avoided.

Plum-pudding, dumplings, and all boiled flour, is poison to dyspeptic people.

Drink should not be taken at meals unless thirst calls for it: much fluid dilutes the gastric juices too much, and weakens their power. This is the reason that tea is so injurious, for many take three, four and five cups at a meal.

Cyder, when it is really good, is a wholesome drink.

A glass of wine, or two, may be safely taken after dinner, provided too much food has not been taken.

As a grand rule, eating moderately should be observed, and not so often as people imagine; three or four hours at least should pass between meals.

We promised in our last number, that we would broach a new theory of the disease of Indigestion, and this it is. All former writers have turned their attention more particularly to the proximate or immediate cause, than to the remote or original cause. They therefore bring our views to the vitiated juices, deranged biliary secretions, weaknesses of the coats of the stomach, and intestines; but the exciting causes have been neglected or mistaken. We now broadly state as our opinion, that indigestion arises from a sluggishness in the action, or living principle, in the branches of nerves which supply the stomach, liver, diaphragm, and respiratory muscles.

The par vagum, or eighth pair of nerves, arises out of the head and proceeds down to the stomach, so that life is given to the stomach from the brain direct, and not from the spinal marrow, as other of the viscera are; hence the great sympathy between the head and the stomach. When the stomach is overloaded with food, sleep generally follows, and may it not be by the mechanical weight thus attached to the eighth pair of nerves? Fretting produces a great want of power in the nerves that supply the midriff or diaphragm, hence the act of sighing: a sigh is but an exertion to set on the tone of the diaphragm and the other respiratory muscles already oppressed by want of nervous power. Mechanical weight in the stomach or the liver, or spleen, will deprive the nerves of their power just in the same proportion as fretting tends to lessen it above. From the weakness of the mind comes indigestion, although sometimes indigestion may arise from bad food, and thus act upon the mind which returns the ef-

fect doubly, and thus establishes the disease.

(To be concluded in our next.)

NETTLE RASH.

THIS disease, from being attended with an eruption of skin, like that produced by the stinging of nettles, is called Nettle-rash. A slight degree of fever often precedes the eruption, and continues during its progress. The skin becomes, wherever it is affected with the disease, itchy and hot, and lasts, frequently, only a few days, and it usually is not perceptible during the day, but breaks out in the evening: very often the parts affected feel knotty and swelled into lumps. Indigestion has been said to be the cause of this disease, or suppressed perspiration; and, perhaps, the eruption which mackerel, mushrooms, crabs, muscles, herrings, lobsters, &c. often produce, is a species of this disease.

The treatment is simple:—When the stomach is supposed to produce it, an emetic must be taken, and after sleep the following powders:—

Of cream of tartar, one drachm,
Of jalap, half-a-drachm.

Mix and divide into three parts: one to be taken in the morning, the others at intervals of three hours. Should it prove obstinate, a warm bath and ten grains of Dover's powder at night in a hot drink should be given.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

For the heart-burn in pregnant women.

To chew a small quantity of green tea by itself.—This we cannot say will positively remove heart-burn; however, it is simple and worth trying.

Vinegar with brown cartridge paper applied to a blood-shot eye.

As this remedy may be applied with advantage to all inflammations, (except erisipilatous) it is good in *this* case.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

For head-ache purely nervous, and when there is a great want of sleep.

Five drops of a solution of the acetate of morphine,* in a glass of hot negus.—Taken going to bed.

Powder for heart-burn.

A small table spoon full of calcined magnesia, ten grains of ginger, mixed. To be taken in a little tea.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Taunton, April 11, 1824.

SIR,

As a constant reader of your valuable publication, I am induced to lay before you my case, which I should think stands unparalleled in the annals of your profession; and I do it under the impression that you will give it your most serious consideration, and condescend to give me your candid opinion on the nature of it, and the probability of my ever being restored to health and spirits. In order that you may be able to form a better idea of the cause as well as the nature of my complaint, I shall be very particular, and hope you will excuse the prolixity of my statement.

I have heard my mother say when I was about five years old, I had such a voracious appetite, that they never could satisfy me. My father said one day, "that boy shall for once eat as much as he likes." The consequence was that I so gorged and overloaded the stomach, that they thought I should have died. I do not recollect this circumstance, but I recollect perfectly at the age of twelve, after eating a very hearty dinner, of course more than I ought to have eaten, of feeling a pain in my left shoulder, which after exercise, &c. gradually subsided. At the age of fourteen, I went an apprentice to a shopkeeper, and during that time, till I was eighteen, I grew astonishingly tall and thin, and from eighteen to twenty, every body thought I should have gone into a decline, being subject to colds, a bad cough, and labouring under the most intolerable headaches, which sometimes would remain upon

*This is a new French medicine, and is to be had at Herring's, Aldersgate Street.

me for ten or twelve days incessantly, so that to stoop was death to me, but from general and local bleeding, with change of air and scene, I got better, my cough left me, as well as the headaches, and I again returned to my avocation, but still remaining delicate. At the age of twenty-one, I experienced another sensation, viz. after eating a hearty dinner, for three hours I had an oppression at my chest, which gradually subsided, continuing longer at sometimes than others, but invariably went off after taking tea. This symptom remained upon me for about two years, without my experiencing any serious ill effects either as to my general health, strength, spirits or complexion, which at that time was of a most beautiful florid colour. Sometime after I began to feel a weakness in the lower part of my belly, causing general debility, and a great depression of spirits, with change of countenance, &c. which gradually got worse and worse, till I was reduced to a mere skeleton, and although my appetite always continued good, but suffering so much from eating, I always dreaded getting my dinner, and my countenance from being of the above colour described was changed to a sallow ghastly, with such a depression of spirits, that I could not bear to go into public company, but hid myself in secret wretchedness. About this time, 23 years of age, in addition to my other sufferings, I was attacked about two or three hours after every meal with a distressing sinking at the pit of my stomach, which has continued upon me, off and on, to the present day, and I am now near forty-five. I find nothing relieves it but eating, which when it is very bad, I have recourse to although no appetite. You will perceive by my statement, that I have continued for twenty-five years, the most deplorable, dejected, emaciated, miserable being that ever existed upon the face of the earth, and yet I can eat, drink and sleep as well as any man in England, which is a striking confirmation of your remark —that cases like mine must arise from disordered functions, and no disease of structure. I have always been studious to health, perhaps too studious, and have always lived regular. My present mode of living is as follows: for breakfast, an egg, bread and butter, with tea—for dinner, plain animal food, which I partake heartily, my appetite being remarkably good—one cup of tea in the afternoon—at nine I take my supper, bread and butter, with celery, water cresses or some kind of salad, drink my pint of strong beer, and go to bed, and get my eight hours sound sleep. Notwithstanding, I am incapable of undergoing any great exertion, even common walking for half an hour makes me languid and fatigued. Formerly I was of a costive habit, but from my own management, my bowels are regular, and the alvine discharge natural. I am anxious, very anxious to have your opinion.

I dined this day at one o'clock, and eat a very hearty dinner off a fine quarter of lamb, and being Sunday, have been sitting by my fire side writing this letter. It is now four o'clock, and this distressing sinking at the pit of my stomach is coming on, and notwithstanding I have drank three glasses of old port wine, I am so languid and low-spirited, that I know not how to finish this letter. I often wonder that for twenty-five years of continual pain of some kind or other, except when in bed, that nature is not completely exhausted. Sir, after every meal the stomach labours excessively for two or three hours in digesting its contents, and then comes on that wretched sinking, accompanied with a languidness and dislike; in fact, incapabilty of active exertion. So I go on, day after day, week after week, year after year. Oh miserable, miserable, miserable!

I am inclined to think my complaint arises from one of the two following causes—from worms, or a defect in the absorbent vessels; I think from the latter. About eight years ago, when under a treatment for a supposed venereal, I rubbed in a great quantity of the blue ointment at intervals for near six months, but it never affected my mouth. I mention this circumstance for your consideration. I think, the stomach after converting the food into nourishment, from some

defect in the absorbent vessels, is not taken up into the system, for instead of being renovated by wholesome food, I am rendered languid in body, depressed in mind, and totally incapable of partaking of any of those rational amusements and enjoyments that can alone render this life desirable. If, Doctor, you can prescribe any thing to relieve me from this distressed situation, this hell upon earth, you will do more than a great many of the most eminent physicians have been able to do for these last twenty-five years. As to the quacks, those pests to society, I shudder at the name, although I have had nothing to do with them for these last twenty years.

*** In our next number we shall consider this case, as it is of general interest.

An Appeal to the Public and to the Legislature on the Necessity of affording Dead Bodies to the Schools of Anatomy, by Legislative Enactment. By WILLIAM MACKENZIE.

(Continued from our last.)

"As the dead bodies for anatomical purposes can be derived in sufficient numbers only from public institutions, it is necessary that the schools of anatomy be in large towns; yet these schools should be in some measure removed from public view, and ought never to be suffered within the walls of an hospital. Where life has come to seek for preservation, the neighbourhood of corrupting corpses must ever be highly offensive, both morally and physically prejudicial to the recovery of the sick, and hurtful to the usefulness of charitable institutions. The greatest decency, and even a certain secresy ought to be employed in conveying the dead bodies from the hospitals to the schools of anatomy. No dead body ought to be allowed to remain in the schools of anatomy beyond a certain number of days, after which, the remains of the dead ought to be decently interred.

"All this, it is evident, can be effected only by the interference of the legislature; and as for many years it has been carried on with regularity in most of the other countries of Europe, it is to be hoped that the same advantages will soon be afforded to the profession in Britain. Let it not be supposed for an instant, that by what the members of the medical profession would judge a sufficient and just liberty of dissecting dead bodies, any thing should be proposed which could outrage public decency, or even the respect to the dead. Dead bodies must be procured, or anatomy must cease, and medicine be deprived of its only true foundation; and the only question is, how are dead bodies to be obtained, so as to give the least possible offence to the public feelings, and to the rights of individuals? The anatomist has indeed been exposed to the calumnies of those miserable hirelings, who for a paltry shilling, to be won by pleasing the palates of the mob, would sell the last lingering spark of truth. But while he is a stranger to those superstitious fears which haunt the common mind, the anatomist approaches the dead body of his fellow-man with the feeling, that he himself must one day be stretched out in the same attitude of insensibility. His office too, consists in no common action either of the mind or of the hand. In scrutinizing the fabric of organization, he meets at every step of his intimate and toilsome search, the proofs of design and of wisdom; nor can this thought ever quit his mind, that his inquiries are not those of a vain and speculative curiosity, but that the end of them all is the relief of suffering humanity. Whatever may be the feelings or motives of those who impede the study of anatomy, the unavoidable consequence of their interference is the increase of human pain and misery.

"France, and the different governments of Italy and Germany, have long since known and acknowledged it to be their duty, to give a dignified and definite support to the study of anatomy. Britain has winked at its exercise. The cultivators of anatomy are furnished over the whole continent, with safe asylums at the public expence, where they may pursue their investigations on the dead bodies furnished to them by legal and exact

regulations. In Britain alone, anatomy must be carried on by stealth, and its cultivators render themselves amenable to the laws of their country, by robbing the sepulchres of the dead.

"Perhaps some may be disposed to reply to this appeal, that notwithstanding the opportunities of dissecting dead bodies being more limited in Britain than in any other civilized country, yet we have to boast of some of the most skilful anatomists and surgeons who have appeared in the world. The names of the Monroes, of the Hunters, of Baillie, of Abernethy, of Cooper, of the Bells, of Barclay, are cited as proofs, not of a mere equality, but of a superiority in anatomical skill, above every other nation in Europe. But to what cause, I would ask, is the professional excellence of these celebrated men to be attributed, unless to this, that from peculiar circumstances, they have been enabled to engage more freely than others in anatomical researches? All those whose names are above enumerated, have been employed in the teaching of anatomy, and have thus had opportunities of prosecuting that science to a degree which is at present totally beyond the reach even of teachers. But it is not the teachers of anatomy only who ought to be intimately acquainted with the structure of the body. Every one whose intention it is to practise medicine, and especially surgery, ought to possess a thorough anatomical knowledge. Those who teach anatomy, are forced indeed to take the only right method of acquiring a knowledge of that science; that is to say, they make it their first object to see and handle the things with which they require to be acquainted, and their second object to know them. To begin by affecting to know these same things, by having read about them, and heard them described, and then to try to see and touch them, which has been the common method of pursuing the study of anatomy, is is palpably absurd, and can never be attended with success.

"The following are the heads of a plan for promoting the practical study of anatomy, which I have already communicated to several distinguished members of the legislature, and which I would earnestly press on the consideration of my professional brethren, and of all the friends of science and humanity.

"I. That the clause of our criminal code, by which the examination of the dead body is made part of the punishment for murder, be repealed.

"II. That the exhumation of dead bodies be punishable as felony.

"III. That no diploma in medicine or surgery be granted by any Faculty, College, or University, except to those persons who shall produce undoubted evidence, of their having carefully dissected, at least five human bodies.

"IV. That in each of the hospitals, infirmaries, work-houses, poor-houses, houses of correction, and prisons of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin, and, if need be, of all other towns in Great Britain and Ireland, an apartment be appointed for the reception of the bodies of all persons dying in the said hospitals, infirmaries, work-houses, poor-houses, foundling-houses, houses of correction, and prisons, unclaimable by immediate relatives, or whose relatives decline to defray the expenses of interment, which expenses shall be estimated at the rate of twenty shillings.

"V. That the bodies of all persons dying in the said towns, and, if need be, in all other towns, and also in country parishes, unclaimable by immediate relatives, or whose relatives decline to defray the expences of interment, shall be conveyed to a mort-house appointed in the said towns for their reception.

"VI. That no dead body shall be delivered from any hospital, infirmary, work-house, poor-house, foundling-house, house of correction, prison, or mort-house, for anatomical purposes, except upon the requisition of a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, or of Surgeons, of London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, or of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and upon the payment of twenty shillings into the hands of the Treasurer of the hospital, infirmary, work-house, poor house, house of correction, or prison, or other officer appointed to receive the same.

"VII. That no dead body shall be conveyed from any hospital, infirmary, work-house, poor-house, foundling-house, house of correction, prison, or mort-house, to a school of anatomy, except in a covered bier, and between the hours of four and six, *a. m.*

"VIII. That after the expiration of twenty-eight days, an officer appointed for this purpose, in each of the four towns above-mentioned, shall cause the remains of the dead to be placed in a coffin, removed from the school of anatomy, where the dead body has been examined, to the mort-house of the town, and decently interred.

"IX. That the expenses attending the execution of these regulations, be defrayed out of the fees paid by teachers and students of anatomy, on receiving dead bodies from the hospitals, infirmaries, work-houses, poor-houses, foundling-houses, houses of correction, prisons, and mort-houses, which fees, according to the calculation already given, will amount to £2000 annually.

"It is evident that this plan can be authorised only by act of parliament. Whatever objections it may be liable to, I am fully persuaded, that it is the only plan capable of accomplishing the desired object; and I am happy to find that it has already met with so able an advocate as Mr. Abernethy.

"If, however, we are disposed thus to labour for the public good, some concession, co-operation, and encouragement on the part of the public, may be by us reasonably expected. Anatomical knowledge is the only foundation on which the structure of medical science can be built. Without this, we should but increase the sufferings of those afflicted with diseases, and endanger their lives. Opportunities of dissection should therefore be afforded to us. The bodies of persons dying in the hospitals abroad, are given to the surgeons for dissection, and even with the acquiescence of the public. In other countries, it is considered that those who are supported by the public, when unable to support themselves, die in its debt, and that their remains may therefore, with justice, be converted to the public use. In England, however, the indigent who suffer from illness and injury, are supported and relieved chiefly by the liberality of that benevolence which is so creditable to our national character; and much as I wish for the promotion of medical knowledge, I should be sorry if the dead bodies of the poor were to be considered as public property, without reserve, in our own country. Yet, if the directors of hospitals, poor-houses, and prisons, were to establish it as a regulation, that the body of any person dying in those institutions, unclaimable by immediate relatives, should be given to the surgeon of the establishment for dissection, upon his signing an obligation so to dispose of it, as to give no offence to decency or humanity, I am convinced that it would greatly tend to the increase of anatomical knowledge amongst the members of our profession in general, and consequently to the public good.

"It has been objected to the plan for supplying the schools of anatomy already explained, that it would be the means of emptying the hospitals. This, however, it has not done in other countries; and even should it have that effect in any degree, it would send from the hospitals only those who ought not to be there, those who are able to pay for medical attendance at their own houses, and who notoriously occupy many of the beds of our hospitals to the exclusion of those whose indigence and distress prevent them from acquiring that degree of interest with the contributors to our hospitals, which is necessary for obtaining recommendations. It is well known to those who are conversant with the state of the poor in our large towns, that the cases of greatest abjectness and disease are not to be found in the hospitals, but in their own hovels. To such friendless objects of charity, the doors of our hospitals would probably be opened more effectually than ever by the adoption of the proposed plan, and disease alone would be made the passport for admission.

"Are there any who would reject the present appeal, on the ground that the truly civilized and polished state of this humane and religious nation for-

bids such cruel butchery of the human body, as anatomists would wish to be permitted to perpetrate; and that the humane prejudices and natural feelings of the people ought not to be violated? Allow me, in imagination, to convey these persons from the dissecting room, where a single dead body lies under the minute knife of the anatomist, who in his hidden and silent retreat, is making out every little vessel and moving thread which it contains, and out of its very corruption is preparing to instruct perhaps a hundred young and ardent minds, in a knowledge of those facts which are to prove in their hands the salvation of innumerable lives—let me convey them from a scene which they loath so much and know so ill, to one which they have heard more of, and have loved better—to the battle-field, where thousands of living men, armed with every instrument of cruel death, encountering thousands, the red and living blood is pouring in torrents, the air is rent with agonizing cries, and in a little hour the ground is covered with weltering corpses. We have seen the day, when Britain, reckoning up the slain, coolly subtracted the number of her own sons whose blood had drenched a foreign soil, and whose bones, stript by the hungry vulture, were left to bleach in the storm. The humane and feeling public received the estimate of slaughter with rapture. It was the estimate of what they had won. The youth, the vigour, and the beauty of the fallen were forgotten. The loud lamentations of the widow, the mother, and the sister, refusing to be comforted, were lost in the deafening cry of victory. The hour was given to madness, and midnight's darkness could not hide the wantonness of mirth and triumph.

"Propose the question of the propriety of dedicating to the humane purposes of anatomical instruction, a few, and only a few of the dead bodies of those individuals who expire in the hospitals, changed and worn out by disease, without a relative or a friend to carry them out to the grave, and whose very names are perhaps forgotten; the feeling public slip on the ready mask of tender-heartedness, and raising their hands in well-affected horror at the proposal, threaten with condign punishment, the poor foolish anatomist, who is cursed with an enthusiasm for the relief of human woe, and who foresees, in the researches which he is forbidden to institute, the discovery of a new or a better means of curing or assuaging some excruciating, or some mortal disease. Thus it is, that men can swallow a camel, but strain most conscientiously at a gnat.

"If the end of war, which is the defence of our country, is sufficient once to justify the adoption of a mean so terrible as the destruction of hosts of living men, surely the end of anatomical study, which is the assuagment of human suffering, is ten times sufficient to justify the dissection of the dead!

"Could the public and the legislature be but brought duly to appreciate the protracted inconveniences, the painful sufferings, the imperfect cures, too often attended with irremoveable lameness or want of useful power; nay, the undeniable loss of lives, to which particularly those in humble life are doomed, by being obliged to submit the management of their diseases to those who have enjoyed no adequate opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of the human structure, how widely different would be their feelings and conduct towards teachers and students of anatomy! Can it at all compensate even one humble individual, doomed to long-continued suffering or incurable lameness, that he is not so much the victim of his surgeon's ignorance, as of an idolatrous respect for the dead, which barred that surgeon from acquiring a knowledge of his profession? Who is there, who for a moment would seriously counter-weigh all the advantages which the system of protecting the dead and interrupting anatomical study, can ever produce, were it continued even for ages, against the loss of a single father of a family, from the ignorance of his surgeon—much less counter-weigh those advantages against the vast increase of human misery, which the world must suffer, from the inadequate attainments of the next

race of surgeons, unless legislative interference produce a prompt and sufficient remedy?

"The subject is of the deepest interest to humanity—it is almost too deep indeed to admit of personal feelings; but I am persuaded that it requires only to be dispassionately considered by those who have the power of remedying the evil, to produce a thorough conviction, that the system of avowed proscription of anatomy, is a system teeming with the most deplorable consequences to society; and that, though some struggles of natural feeling must be encountered, and many prejudices overcome, yet the advantages to be obtained are so vast, or rather the necessity of the case is so imperative, that any unnecessary delay in making the supply of the schools of anatomy a matter of legislative enactment, would be a vital injury to the best interests of this country, and of mankind at large."

*** We cannot too strongly recommend Mr. M'Kenzie's little work, from which the above was extracted, to public notice.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

THE "Newington Army Medical Board" is not yet properly moulded; next week, however, it shall be examined.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

HAVING recently purchased the first four parts of your excellent little work, and being particulary impressed, among other various topics of interest to society, with the supreme importance of the article headed 'Annals of Quackery,' I am induced to advert briefly to the poisonous tribe of quacks, that infest this large and populous sea-port town. Here we have the notorious Webster, who keeps a printing press at work, instead of pestle and mortar, finding the composition of lies perhaps more lucrative than the trituration or compounding of drugs, Here is Johannes and Son, a gulling firm, and an excrescence from this double-headed fungus root sprouts forth, named Graham, a fellow living in an obscure den, yet disfiguring the walls of the town with large bills of "No Cure, No Pay."—"News for the afflicted, a certain, &c." but it would occupy too much room in your pages, to enumerate and enlarge upon this vile race who fatten upon the ruin of their credulous fellow creatures, spoiling them of that blessing which is truly above all treasure, you have put the Bristol Quack into a state of salivation or foaming hydrophobia, and shortly I hope to see your attention directed this way.

Our town walls, sides of houses,&c. are at present in sable array, for as fast as the low bred vermin affix their obscene placards, by an order of the magistrates, a person appointed daubs them out with a blacking brush, thus, though disfiguring the town, completely obliterating their baneful addresses. It is, as you justly observe, a pity, yea, it is a reflection upon the legislative assembly, that this shame to our island is not put down—where is the Vice Society, that can incarcerate men in dungeons, and fine them beyond their ability *ever* to pay, for freely discussing theological questions, and yet, shame, shame, this vile race of plunderers! bloodsuckers! murderers! o'erspread and disfigure the land with impunity; and the public press too, where are their warnings?—alas! their patriotism is bartered, their love of mankind exchanged for their love of gold, and the wives and daughters of Englishmen are disgusted in the perusal of a newspaper by the filthy and abominable compositions of the quacks.

These things will not long exist; for, if luxury, vice, disease and effeminacy are in the corinthian capitals of society spreading their baneful foliage, let us hope the foundation of the edifice still stands firm, and that for the glory and safety of our country, the operative classes—the far most valuable part of society—may yet enjoy sound minds and sound bodies:—that for the information you have afforded the one, and the protection given to the other, you may enjoy the "soul's calm sunshine and the heartfelt joy" is the sincere wish of,

Sir, Your's, &c.

W. L. Jun.

Liverpool, April 10th, 1821.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

PERMIT me to give you an authentic anecdote of Cooper and Co. the "Medical Board," Charlotte-street.

V. N. a friend of mine, being in pain from a small sore he had, came to town to consult, as he supposed, Sir Astley Cooper; and happening to pass by the "Medical Board," rapped at the door. A black servant soon attended, when the following dialogue took place:—

V.—Does Sir Astley Cooper live here?

Footman.—Yes, Sir.

V.—Is he within?

F.—Yes, sir.

V.—(Going in.) Tell him I want to see him.

Enter the sham Sir A. Cooper.

V.—Your name is Sir Astley Cooper, I believe, Sir?

Cooper, (the sham Sir A. C.)—Yes, Sir.

V.—(showing the sore) I came Sir, to consult you about this sore, which gives me great pain?

C.—I will see what I can do for you. (Exit).

(Enter again with a magnifying glass, looks at the sore.) The Board have consulted, Sir, and will cure you for £10.

Take this liquid every night, and the pills every other night—(giving him a phial and pill box).

V.—(Giving him the £10)—Very well, Sir.

After being completely drenched in a week, he went to tell him how loose his teeth were, that they rattled as if they would fall out of his mouth; when the following dialogue took place:—

C.—Well, how are you now?

V.—I think the medicine is too strong for me, for all the teeth in my mouth are quite loose.

C.—Ah, Sir! We must take the bull by the horns! We must take the bull by the horns!

Nor did my friend find out the imposture, till he went to see his friend, who told him the trick that had been played. He immediately consulted Sir Astley Cooper, who advised him to go again, and take a police officer with him, which he did, and was received in the same way as before. But the aforesaid "Medical Board" were obliged to return the money.

I have heard Sir Astley Cooper, himself, relate the above.

If this anecdote can be of any use to you, you are perfectly welcome to it.

From your constant reader,

HONESTAS.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY.

Bees.—We wish to have the following query answered by some of our philosophic readers.

Is the theory of Virgil, which is mentioned in the Georgics, about the organs of re-production in Bees, correct?

Illum adeò placuisse apibus mirabere morem
Quod nec concubitu indulgent, nec corpora segnes
In venerem solvunt, aut fœtus nixibus edunt
Verum ipsæ è foliis natis et suavibus herbis
Ore legunt; ipsæ regem parvosque quirites
Sufficiunt: aulasque et cerea regna refingunt."

Georgicorum Lib. 4—Lin. 197 and 202.

Or—Is it true that the drones have the male organs of reproduction, and the queen is wholly employed in the reproduction of her family? If that be the case, of which sex are the working Bees?"

Restoring sour Porter.—A little carbonate of soda added to sour porter, restores it, and gives it the flavour of bottled ale, or bottled porter.

British Tea.—A correspondent wishes to know what sort of leaves, and what combination of them, would come nearest in similarity to tea.

Measles.—This disease has for this last month been extremely fatal at Exeter, it is said that eighteen graves were open in one church-yard at that place. We will in our next number, therefore, give our opinions and advice upon the disease.

Noble Patients.—The Duke of Wellington is ill of a liver complaint, at Cheltenham. Lord Liverpool is at Bath, labouring under considerable debility. The Chief Justice of Ire-

land, Lord Norbury has resigned, from ill health. The Duke of Gloucester has got a severe fit of dyspepsia, and the "tenth" Marquis of Londonderry is suffering from the Blue Devils.

Poisoning from Oxalic Acid.—In our last number, we gave the proceedings of a Coroner's inquest, held upon the body of a man who fell a victim to a too common mistake. In a former part of our work, we proposed that Druggists and Apothecaries should be compelled to give up the sale of oxalic acid, and leave it to the oil shops. Had this proposal been successful, we should not now have the painful duty of recording the destruction of another individual.

Too much censure cannot be passed upon the Druggist or Apothecary, who sell oxalic acid for Epsom salts: the mistake ought not to occur since Dr. Venables published his pamphlet upon the subject. This instance, however, shews that even the most explicit cautions are not sufficient to guard against fatal accidents, and that nothing short of legislatorial interference can remedy the evil.

American Medical News.—The following is extracted from a Baltimore paper, and will serve to settle the differences, as regard claims to invention, between Mr. Jukes and Mr. Reed.

"A few days ago, we inserted among our extracts from foreign journals, an article claiming the merit of an invention for extracting poison from the human stomach, as belonging to a British surgeon, and this on the authority of Sir A. Cooper. It now appears that the invention is of American origin, and as such deserves to be appreciated by our countrymen. A letter on the subject, written by a physician, was published in the New York Statesman, from which we copy the following extract as very appropriate in style and conclusive as to fact:

"'Although in a philanthropic point of view it is a matter of small importance whether this or that inventor was born on this or that side of the water, so long as mankind at large enjoy the benefit of the invention, yet feelings of national pride must and will be nourished so long as love of country find a place in the human breast. Mine were not a little excited yesterday by the extract from an English paper, in which an invention is claimed by a Mr. Jukes, which has long been known in this country, and the important parts of which originated with our countryman, Dr. Physick, of Philadelphia. I refer to the experiment of pumping out the human stomach, at St. Thomas' Hospital. Dr. Physick nearly, if not quite, ten years since, first suggested this operation, and Dr. Dorsey was the first who thus washed out the stomach, by attaching a catheter to the point of a syringe, in the case of a young man who took laudanum for the purpose of committing suicide. Mr. Jukes is said to have known this two years only. I have, myself, for more than five years, kept an instrument of the kind by me for the before mentioned purpose. It cannot but excite surprise that those who are so fond of abusing us *en masse* for deficiency of ingenuity, should endeavour to rob our country of the claim to those inventions which are eventually proved to deserve merit.'"

Medical Meddling.—We are compelled again to revert to the strange obliquity of reason, that seems to pervade the public conduct of Mr. Webb, the surgeon of Coldbath-fields prison. It is a pity that a man whose duty is confined to the mere exercise of his profession in that prison, should so far infringe upon the duties of the other officers of the gaol, as in the case we here mention; and that not upon the side of humanity. We are induced to observe upon Mr. Webb's conduct, from the fact of his having on the 8th of last month, ordered seven men to be locked up on bread and water for asking medical advice. The names of the prisoners are as follows; John Nighting, James Christmas, James Billinger, George Bounding, William Woods; William Blound, and John Jones. Something must be done with the surgeons of goals, to protect poor prisoners from the discretionary power now in their hands. We shall soon propose a plan to Mr. Peel, upon this subject.

Tread Mill.—There seems to be a silence upon the subject of the application of this machine to females, ever since the report of the three physicians to Mr. Peel: but we trust the eloquence of the heart is still breathing. Let us look, one and all, calmly upon the subject. Let us leave out all party feelings, and turn the eyes of men—of English—kind-hearted men, to the horrid application of this punishment, and surely we cannot long dispute upon it. If there live a man who, after reading an able work lately published, entitled "*Thoughts on Prison Labour*," by a Student of the Inner Temple—if there live a man, we say, after reading that book, that still advocates the punishment of the tread-mill to females, he must be made of that tough impenetrable material that pity cannot melt nor conscience cut.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A WATER DRINKER is informed, that the practice of giving gin to infants is destructive.

PROCURATOR may have an answer, by telling us where to address him.

J. B. Y. shall soon have our opinions upon *Hirpes.*

M. D.—The girl should keep a warm plaster between her shoulders constantly, take the expectorating pill occasionally, and keep her bowels moderate by senna tea.

HONESTAS is informed that Jebb's stomachic aperient pills, and Davy's anti-asthmatic mixtures, are merely the common formulæ of the dispensatory. If sold for a penny or twopence, they would do no harm.

X. X. X. may find some benefit from the cubebs.

H——y W——h.—A letter was sent to the Post Office, Bristol, by Wednesday Night's Post. We regret it could not have been forwarded the day before.

The Quacks dirty a deal of paper in writing to us. Several of their letters have come to hand this week.

To a CORRESPONDENT, we say that Whitmore, the "Apothecary" and Midwife of Cold Bath Square, was a Stationer and Bookbinder; and that Skinner, the "Surgeon" of Hatton Garden, was a lollypop seller, in a little shop on Saffron Hill. They both (save the mark!) are *respectable* and persevering *professionals.*

G. M. next.

We have received several copies of medical works, and return our thanks to their authors.

Communications (Post Paid) to be sent to the Editor, at the Publishers. London: published by JOHN KNIGHT and HENRY LACEY, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow; and — WEBB, Dublin.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

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HARE LIP.

Our plate of this Number represents the operation for hare lip as performed in the old manner with needles. The manner of performing it was thus:—Each edge of the fissure in the lip was cut with a scissars, so as to make them raw, a needle was then passed from one side into the other, the edges brought close, and a ligature twisted upon it, so as to keep the edges in apposition.

Since that, the operation has been performed with two needles as marked C. C., one passed near the nose, and the other near the inferior edge of the upper lip. It is now performed with ligatures alone, merely tying the edges together, having passed in the ligatures by needles, as in cases of simple incised wounds.

A. The old needle.
B. The ligature twisted on it.
C. C. Two needles more recently used.

*** These instruments are drawn disproportionately large.

EDITOR'S OPINION UPON DYSPEPSIA OR INDIGESTION.

(Concluded.)

We stated in our last Number, as our opinion, that indigestion was caused most frequently by weakness of those nerves destined to supply the stomach with life. It is not only caused by it, but the effect reacts upon those nerves and thus increases the disease, adding day after day to the load of suffering, until death. It appears, therefore, obvious, that remedies should be directed to the nervous power, and not merely to the freeing of the digestive organs from their obstructions. These obstructions are the effects of the deranged or weakened nerves, and as long as they remain weak, fresh obstructions will be generated. The mind gives energy to the nerves, the nerves throw that energy into the blood-vessels and heart—these organs furnish again the nerves and brain with material, and thus goes on the system healthily. But embarrass or weaken that mind—oppress it, and what is the immediate consequences? Indigestion: hence men advanced in years, who being generally more heavy minded than youth, are more subject to indigestion; and hence this derangement having once began, the mind and organs react one upon the other, till they destroy the man.

Physical exhaustion will also produce indigestion, and more particularly excessive venery. This excitement leaves behind a general debility, and when general debility is present, indigestion must be the consequence.

Having now dwelt upon the nature of indigestion sufficiently, we come to the practical part of the treatment, and we shall be as concise as possible.

We do not recommend the use of the blue pill so frequently as prescribed by Mr. Abernethy, but think the occasional use of it will be of great benefit, particularly in confirmed cases; perhaps 5 grains taken at night for two or three nights once a month, would be a good assistant to a tonic plan; but to cure indigestion effectually a regular system must be followed, and that which we recommend to confirmed cases is the following:—

Let the patient arise about six or seven o'clock in the summer, and at eight only in winter; immediately on getting out of bed, wash and brush the mouth and teeth with cold spring water, breakfast shortly after upon a half boiled egg or two, no more, and a cup of chocolate or tea, never more than two cups. About eleven o'clock in the day, when there is generally in dyspeptic people a sense of sinking and gnawing at the stomach, about half a glass, or from that to a whole one of the French medicine, called the *tonic and digestive wine**, should be taken with a little ginger and a biscuit. At three o'clock he should dine, but never eat so much as to make him feel full; he should masticate his food well, eat slowly, use biscuit instead of bread, and drink, if possible, none: but at all events no more than about half a pint fluid. If a sense of drowsiness is felt, let him lie down with directions to some person to awaken him in an hour, when he should take a cup of strong tea, but no more. This will enliven the mind, and every thing which does that should be encouraged. He should take a light supper at ten o'clock, or a few oysters, or a basin of gruel with a glass of wine, and having again washed his mouth with spring water, go to bed. The mind must be kept cheerful by society, and the indulgence in thought or study scrupulously avoided, as that adds another weight to the wheel. When the patient can do it, bathing or sponging the body in the morning with cold water or a shower-bath (which by the by every house ought to have) will go a

* This remedy has been examined by us, and the agents who have brought it from France, have given us a satisfactory statement of its composition. We have ourselves examined and used it; and we think it the most useful remedy in restoring the digestive organs and debilitated nerves. Its basis is Madeira wine, and its medical properties are composed of acetate of morphine, and hydrocyanic acid in such proportions as we could not ascertain; there is also in it, we think, a portion of the cinchona tincture. We have one fault to find with it, and that is the price. It is too dear, and we take this opportunity of suggesting to the proprietors the necessity of lowering the price, a shilling a dose we think too much.

great way to improve and invigorate the system.

Venery must be avoided as a serpent, and so must indulgence in fermented liquor. Ale must never be taken, and very little beer. Wine and water is the best drink. With regard to exercise that must be moderate, and in the open air; and the clothing must be just to keep the body comfortable.

If the French medicine above mentioned procures a gentle relaxation of the bowels, with an invigorating feeling throughout the body, it has gained its effects, but if these do not take place it is of no use. Should it purge, the dose should be lessened. We recommend the digestive wine, because we are enemies to purgatives in indigestion; and we think this calculated to accomplish the effect upon the digestive organs without injuring them with purging; however the blue pill may be taken with advantage every fortnight in a dose of from five to ten grains.

Every one of our readers who are suffering from indigestion or bilious attacks, or verging towards those diseases, and those whose nerves are weakened from any cause whatever should follow the above plan; and we do not hesitate to say, that if strictly attended to, as we have laid it down, health will glow upon their cheeks, and long life make them happy.

We have now concluded our advice upon the most important of all subjects, and we sincerely hope that it may prove a lasting benefit to our readers. If in the following of the rules laid down, any peculiarity of constitution or of symptom should appear, our readers are requested to let us know, in order that by our further advice we may rectify any casual derangement.

MEASLES.

Measles is an inflammatory and infectious fever, in which there is sneezing, cough, discharge of water from the eyes and nose, redness of the eyes, and red spots all over the body. There are two species of the disease—the benign and malignant; that is, one is but a slight attack of all the symptoms, and the other a severe one, in which the spots become dark purple and a putrid disposition is evident.

Scarlatina so much resembles the disease, that it is often taken for it, and the treatment in both being so different, too much caution cannot be observed in distinguishing the character. The eruption in measles rises more above the skin than in Scarlatina, and feels rough to the touch, which is not the case in the latter disease, except a little about the arms. In Scarlatina there is seldom a bad cough, the eyelids are not red nor swelled, and they do not run water. In Scarlet fever the eruption appears on the face and arms on the second day, but in measles it commences about the third day slightly on the breast and chin, and does not appear on the hands and arms until the fourth or fifth day.

Children are most liable to measles; but the disease attack people of all ages, and winter is the most common time.

The eruption is usually preceded by a shivering and chilliness, succeeded by heat, thirst, head-ache, redness of the face and eyes, and pains in the back. The pulse is strong and quick, and there is a dry cough, swelling of the eyelids, difficulty of breathing, and a profuse discharge from the nose. A remission takes place in the symptoms towards morning, which are again increased towards evening.

About the third or fourth day, spots like flea-bites appear about the face, breast and neck, and within two days the body is covered with them. They are easily felt a little elevated above the surface of the skin. None of the symptoms seem to abate on the appearance of the eruption, but on the contray, are aggravated. About the fifth or sixth day the colour of the spots change to brown, and about the ninth day, disappear from the breast and other parts, leaving a disquamation of the skin.

When all the symptoms above mentioned, are in a very high degree, and the fever is of typhoid type, the disease is called malignant measles.

It is singular that if the system be impregnated with the contagion of

measles before inoculation for small-pox, it will have its course, and the latter disease will not shew itself, until the other subsides.

Throughout the whole of the disease, the patient should be confined to bed, and kept warm, as the slightest cold might repel the eruption; but too much heat is just as bad, a moderate temperature is the best. An acid drink of lemon juice, barley water and sugar should be provided, and the following cooling laxative given:—

Senna tea, 3 ounces
Salts (Epsom,) 2 drachms.

To be taken in three doses, at the distance of two hours each dose, until the bowels are relaxed.

If there is pain in the chest, and difficulty of breathing, leeches should be applied and after that a blister. If there is an excess of phlegm in the throat, an emetic must be given. Dr. Armstrong recommends in cases where the pain is great in the chest, a warm bath of water, strongly impregnated with salt.

If the eruption of the measles should be by any chance suppressed before the proper time, an attempt must be made to bring it back. The consequence of the striking inward of the eruption, produces delirium, anxiety, and convulsions. A warm bath must then be given, blisters applied to the legs and breast, and warm wine and water administered with the following mixture—

Of antimonial powders, two grains
Of camphor, three grains
Of subcarbonate of ammonia, 4 grains
Of confection of orange peel sufficient to make a bolus, which is to be given every four or five hours.

If on the subsiding of the disease, a violent purging prevails, the following powder should be given.

Of compound powder of chalk half a drachm
Of rhubarb one scruple
Mix, and divide into six powders, one every three hours.

Measles frequently leave behind the foundation of other diseases; therefore great attention must be paid to the patient when the symptoms have subsided. A milk diet with small doses of wine, wholesome food and country air, are the best means.

SHOCKING DEATH BY MAGGOTS.

Dr. Gordon Smith in his Treatise on Medical Jurisprudence, details under the head of "*Poisoning by Maggots*," several cases of death produced by the ovæ of animalculæ insinuating into the brain, and by that means the whole surface of the body became dissolved into maggots. He endeavours to account for this in a very simple way—he says, that myriads of the ovæ are deposited in the skin, and there increase; but we think differently from the doctor. It is more probable that the whole surface of the body is so disorganized as to produce, at one moment, the maggots, and the following case will bear us out:—A French soldier who had been wounded severely at the battle of Waterloo, and who had remained several days on board a barge in which he was embarked at Ghent, for Ostend, was being conveyed by sea to Dunkirk, from the latter place along with many more wounded Frenchmen. On the morning after the ship put to sea, the surgeon, Mr. Maginn, in going round the patients below decks, was shocked at finding the whole, or nearly so, of the surface of the body covered with maggots, not appearing above the skin, but as if the skin itself was dissolved into this revolting mass. At first the surgeon supposed the man dead, but on lifting him up he opened his eyes, groaned, and expired. On the night before, the man had not the least appearance of the kind, and the hold in which the wounded man lay, was spacious and well ventilated; the weather, however, was, and had been, previously excessively hot.

CONSEQUENCES OF OVERLOADING THE STOMACH.

The Case of the Writer of a Letter from Taunton which appeared in our last Number.

This case is the consequence of overloading the stomach when a child. The small glands through which the nourishing portion of the food is

taken up, into the blood, are diseased or thickend; or else the gastric fluid of the stomach does not properly dissolve the food; we think the former is more likely to be the case. Many such diseases are to be met with, and men who are extremely thin, yet possessing a great appetite, are more or less afflicted with it. Under such circumstances, we think that an attempt should be made to restore the tone of the stomach, by about half the usual quantity, and of the most nutritive food. Asses' milk, goat's whey, frequent small doses of wine, gentle exercise, the shower bath and relaxation of the mind.

*** We shall be glad to hear from the writer the quantity of food he eats at a meal, how often he eats, the consequences of long fasting, habits of thinking, general mode of life, and profession, in order that we may send him our advice.

The following useful Remarks are extracted from an argumentative and useful work by DR. ADAM DODDS, *of Worcester, entitled the Physician's Guide.**

"BLOOD-LETTING is of very great antiquity, and much resorted to in the different parts of the world. It has been the custom in Asia, from the remotest ages, to bleed in the plague. Dr. Friend, in his History of Physic, fourth edition, page 16, informs us that Oribasius, who flourished in the time of Julian the Apostate, mentions particularly that, being himself attacked with the plague when it raged violently in Asia, he scarificed his leg on the second day, and abstracted two pounds of blood; and adds that this method not only succeeded in himself, but also in many others. It has also been, from time immemorial, the custom with the American Indians. In Africa, when Mr. Park was at Bondon, the king of the country received him sitting on a mat. 'I had no sooner,' says Mr. P., 'entered the court appropriated to the ladies, (ten or twelve in number,) than the whole seraglio surrounded me, some begging for physic, some for amber, and all of them desirous of trying that great African specific, *blood-letting*.'

"It is a powerful means of laying the *foundation in the cure of numerous diseases;* capable of much good or of much harm, according to the circumstances under which it is applied, and the manner in which it is managed. Of all the remedies used in fever and phlegmonous inflammation, it is the most powerful, and the most decisive; at the same time with regard to its employment, in the former especially, the most undecided with respect to medical opinion, of both ancients and moderns. If Hippocrates considerably neglected it, Aræteus, Celsus, and particularly Galen, made ample use of this Herculean and important measure, as will hereafter be shewn.

"The Medico-Academical Society of Paris, a few years since, proposed as its Prize Question: 'What are the symptoms which *indicate* or *contra-indicate* Blood-letting in Fevers; whether intermittent or continued, designated under the denominations Putrid or Adynamic, Malignant or Ataxic?'

"Where genuine phlegmasia, or a phlogistic diathesis, exists, bleeding, topical or general, is almost always more or less an indispensable remedy; but the existence of such condition is not in every instance readily ascertained. This state, however, must be discovered if possible, and in fevers and all acute diseases, the *judicious* practitioner will constantly keep in view the preservation of all the organs from the dangers immediate and remote of high inflammation: blood-letting checks deranged movement, and sometimes lowers and sometimes raises sensibility to impression; in consequence of which, other remedies may produce those motions, which are similar to, or which are the identical movements of health. In these respects it is useful in the *beginning* of the excitement of most fevers; the beneficial and peculiar advantage of employing it in the primary stages of which, however, has hitherto been too little regarded by the faculty. If

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* Dr. Dodds, in our opinion, has adopted a title which is wholly unworthy of the work: it is addressed to the popular ear in such terms as would lead the faculty to pass it by, yet the book is worthy of a place in every physician's library.

indeed the *circumstances* in which it is employed be the proper ones, and its management well conducted, it rarely fails of promoting a salutary effect; but the most judicious manner of employing this potent remedy requires particular notice; for on this, in a great degree, depends its success: and to the contrary may be ascribed, I believe, not only its failure but its disgrace. We are, however, in perpetual hazard of doing too little or too much in the practice of physic; this is particularly the case with the adoption of blood-letting, because it is not at all periods an easy task to make our measures just suited for the removal of the urgent symptoms, without exhausting the resources of the system. *Blood, the vital fluid, is not to be drawn off by measure so much as by its effects.* To write down in a prescription the number of ounces to be taken away is absurd, as being attended with the most serious danger; because half the quantity, when put to the test, may in some cases, agreeably to the nature of the disease and constitution of the patient, prove sufficient; while, on the contrary, twice the quantity ordered might not be enough to subdue the morbid action; and this may be readily evinced at the time, by examining and comparing physicians' prescriptions wherein it is so written. In a practical point of consideration no remedy is of more importance than blood-letting; yet no remedy is more abused, none treated with greater apathy and indifference, as to its good or bad effects upon the constitution; I would therefore earnestly entreat the public, as it regards its own welfare, to consider this subject in a more serious and lucid light than has hitherto been done; and at the same time I would strongly recommend practitioners to accurately investigate its powers, on an enlarged and comprehensive view, as they value the vital interests of society, and the advancement of the medical art.

The proportionate quantity of blood to be taken away according to the different ages might at first view, particularly in common cases, appear to stand thus:

Years——	35	lb or 16 ozs.
	34	
	33	.... ozs. 15½
	32	
	31	.... ozs. 15⅝
40—	30	
	29	..... 15½
	28	..... 15¼
	27	 15
	26	..... 14⅞
50—	25	 14
	24	..... 13½
	23	 13
	22	..... 12⅝
	21	..... 12¼
60—	20	 11
	19	 11
	18	 10
	17	..... 9½
70—	16	 9
	15	..... 8½
	14	 8
80—	13	..... 7½
	12	..... 6½
90—	11	 6
	10	..... 5½
100—	9	 5
	8	..... 4½
	7	 4
	6	..... 3½
	5	 3
	4	..... 2½
	3	 2
	2	..... 1⅝
	1	..... 1⅓
Months—	9	 1
	6	drms. 6
	3	..... 4½
	1	 4
Weeks—	3	 3
	2	 2
	1	..... 1⅜
Days—	4	..... 1⅓
	2	 1
	0	..... ⅜

" *Remarks.*—The lb or 16 ounces, forming the column of quantity, implies the liquid pint in measure, and is applicable to the quantities of blood to be taken away. In this table the age of 35, not 21, is regarded and assumed as the acme or height of bodily strength or vigour, and requiring, *cæteris paribus*, to be drawn the largest quantity. For females a deduction is to be made, according to circumstances, about one-fourth or one-fifth part. But however perfect this table may be considered in ordi-

nary cases, and although we must carefully take into consideration the age, constitution, and habits of life of the patient, yet we must also be guided by the indications pointed out by the symptoms present. In acute and violent diseases particularly, the minuteness in the construction of this table must be dispensed with, as the quantity of blood then to be taken away is to be regulated by its effects and not by measure; for, in such cases, were we to wait to deliberate on any precisely fixed rule, such deliberation would produce nothing but apprehension, delay, and a most dangerous indecision For instance it may sometimes be necessary to draw off 30 instead of 16 ounces.

The age of 21, the adult age as it is termed, or the age of full growth, respecting stature, is, very generally, assumed as the age for the full quantity, yet it is well known, that, after this age, the bodily strength continues increasing, requiring the loss of an increased proportion, which is, and must be attended to, but is commonly adapted in a very vague and indefinite manner. On the other hand, though in the treatment of diseases, the age of the patient is a leading point to regulate our conduct in the employment of blood-letting, it should be in relation to the powers of the individual rather than to his age, of which, if we judge medically by years alone, we take a fallacious guide. From 30 to 35, man is in his highest vigour, and from this last period to that of 50 years, the solids have still lost no thing of their strength; but beyond this age, the meridian of life is past. The powers of the system begin to flag, and its former energy to gradually decay. Morbosity, or deranged structure, in consequence of imperfect mutation, is liable to take place, as ossification of arteries, thickening of parts, &c. The nervous system is less excitable or susceptible of impressions to what it has hitherto displayed. The system is affected in two ways by plethora. The arterial fulness, or plethora, which distinguishes youth, has now passed to the venous system, where the blood is retarded and accumulates in different parts.

Between young and aged subjects a striking difference exisits, relative to their capability of bearing determinate losses of blood. In the former the arterial is more acute and ample than the venous system, and when large quantities have been drawn in a short period, the energies of the general system, if the disease be removed, speedily restore the strength,—but in the latter, the same treatment, even if it removed the disease for which it was had recourse to, would not unfrequently occasion an irretrievable debility, the system for want of innate vigour, not being able to renovate again; and therefore, in simple fevers particularly, aged persons should never be depleted so much as young persons. Yet in certain aged people, as well as in young subjects, the blood abounds too much with red particles, producing increased heat or fever, and irritation of the brain: in this case we extract blood for the purpose of lessening the quantum of red particles in the circulating mass.

But it is the age of sixty which is generally fixed upon as the beginning of senility, or old age. About this period some mark of bodily infirmity usually appears, and the skilful medical observer may unquestionably be able to detect the first serious aberration from health. I may notice, first that at the period when inflammation occurs, and where bleeding may be indispensable as a remedy, it will be necessary to attend with guarded caution to the quantity and quality of the blood; secondly, old age is not unfrequently presented labouring under fever, with determination to some of the viscera, more particularly to the brain, which fever is successfully treated by blood-letting and cathartics. This shews that advanced age and debility are no arguments against the practice of depletion if properly conducted; indeed, the quantity (from 5 or 6 to 10 or 11 ounces) of blood which seems necessary to be taken away, is so small as to remove all apprehensions of danger from this evacuation. In like cases, physicians often apply 6, 8, or 12 leeches to the temples, by means of which more blood is lost, yet the benefit derived is comparatively trifling; thirdly, I wish it to be particularly

observed, that the later stages of human life are frequently abridged by unsuitable diet, or prematurely ended by disorders which are not treated with sufficient attention by the faculty. Old men, says Hippocrates, have less sickness than the young; age produces a diminution of sensibility,—and 'it is highly probable that when acute inflammations prove fatal, the vitality of the system is destroyed, as it were before the attack." It is a vulgar error to regard the termination of advanced life the inevitable consequence of time, for the immediate cause of death in old persons is, in general, some well marked disease. To the discerning practitioner many incipient disorders may be discovered in the state of the stomach and its dependencies, and the condition of the blood and its vessels. Living full and taking little exercise, accumulate blood beyond the equilibrium. The vessels over-distended, the blood contaminated, the digestion impaired and consequent crudities intermixing with the materials of the blood, obstructed bowels, and all the dangers which result from impediments to that source of keeping the body pure and wholesome, are to be reckoned the leading causes of many disorders; and, by a scrupulous attention to these points, the commencement of a disease may be detected."

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

A red hot Cinder quenched in cold water, applied to sore Nipples.
This must be highly injurious.

Buttered Ale and Sugar for a Cold.
Another dangerous thing.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Powder Heartburn and Acidity of the Stomach.

Of calcined magnesia three drachms,
Of prepared chalk ten grains,
Of ginger ten grains.—Mix. This should be taken occasionally.

Draught for Cholic in Old People.

Of tincture of rhubarb two drachms.
Of tincture of senna two drachms.
Of tincture of ginger one drachm. Mix.

COMMON HENBANE.

Common Henbane is an indigenous annual, frequent on waste grounds, and at the sides of roads, particularly on a calcareous soil, flowering in July. The root is long, tapering, compact, and fibrous: the stem erect, woody, round, and branched, rising about three feet in height, is of a sea-green colour, and the whole of the plant is covered with soft white hairs, feels clammy and slightly adhesive, and is poisonous when eaten.

The odour of the recent leaves is strong, somewhat fœtid and narcotic, and the taste mucilaginous, and slightly acid, but when dry, they have scarcely either odour or taste. Its virtues are completely extracted by diluted alchohol. The watery infusions are of a very pale yellow colour and insipid, and have the narcotic odour of the plant. It is not altered by the acids, the alkalies change the colour to a deep greenish yellow, which on the addition of an acid, disappears, and a brownish floculent precipitate is produced. It is copiously precipitated by solutions of superacetate of white lead, and by nitrate of silver black. Sulphate of iron strikes with it a pale olive colour, and a dark precipitate is slowly formed. Hence henbane appears to contain resin, mucous extractive, a peculiar alkaline salt, and gallic acid. M.M. Meissner and Brandes, have examined the nature of this alkaline salt, which they have named hyosciamia, and have ascertained, that on it depends the peculiar virtues, and the poisonous properties of the plant. It crystallizes in long prisms, and forms neutral salts with the acids.

Henbane is narcotic. Its operation is very similar to that of opium, encreasing at first the strength of the pulse, and producing some sense of heat, effects which are followed by proportional dimunution of excitement and sleep. In some habits it occasions diaphoresis or diuresis, and sometimes a pustular eruption, at other times it purges, and in over-doses produces sickness, stupor, dimness of sight, hard

pulse, delirium, and coma, with dilatation of the pupils, until the pulse gradually becoming weak and tremulous, petectriæ make their appearance, and death ensues. Dissections show the effects of inflammation, both in the stomach and bowels, and the membranes of the brain. After an emetic is given, and the stomach fully cleared, vinegar is the best antidote.

The effects of henbane as an anodyne were know to the ancients; but as those were ill understood, and its use almost completely relinquished till the time of Baron Stoerck, he may be regarded as having introduced it. It may be employed in all cases in which the use of opium is indicated, where the latter disagrees with the habit, or where its constipating effect is wished to be avoided. In painful or spasmodic affections, hysterid, rheumatism, and gout, much benefit has resulted from its use, and it is found particularly serviceable in scrophulous and cancerous ulcers, hemorrhoids, and other painful swellings, and Herfeland recommends the leaves and marshmallow flowers, boiled in milk, with the addition of a few grains of acetate of lead, as a topical application in scrophulous ophthalmia. Its effects in dilating the pupil, when an infusion of it is dropped into the eye, are similar to those of belladonna, and hence it is also employed as a preparative to the operation for cataract. It is used generally in the forms of extract and tincture only.

PEPPER—ITS QUALITIES, &c.

Black pepper is a native of the East Indies, and is very abundantly cultivated at Malacca, Java, and Sumatra, whence the whole of Europe is supplied; it is a climbing plant, the stem being round, smooth jointed, and swelling towards each joint; woody, slender branched, and from eight to twelve feet in length. The fruit is a globular berry of a red-brown colour.

In Sumatra, the pepper vines are propagated by cuttings or suckers; in growing they are supported by props called chinkareens, which are cuttings of morinda citrifolia, or of an erythuna, and at the root of each of which two vines are planted; the plants are three years old before they bear fruit, and bear for eight years; the berries are four or five months before they come to maturity, are gathered soon as any of them ripen, then spread upon mats to dry, and trodden to separate the fruit from the stalk when they become more or less shrivelled; the vines yield two crops yearly, the first in December, the second in July, White pepper is the ripe and perfect berries freed of their outer coat by means of a preparation of lime and mustard oil, called chinam, applied before it is dried; the pepper is now also cultivated to a considerable extent in India.

Black pepper has an aromatic odour, and a hot pungent taste, its virtues are entirely extracted by ether and alcohol, and partially by water; when purchased in the state of powder is generally adulterated; it is often mixed with the powdered husks of mustard, which are openly sold by the makers of mustard for this purpose, under the title of P. D. (pepper dust).

Black pepper is stimulant and carminative; its use as a condiment is well known, and although in general it is not hurtful, but rather useful to those who have a weak digestion, yet even in small quantities it proves injurious to inflammatory habits, and in those subject to piles. It nevertheless is an ingredient in a celebrated nostrum for the cure of piles, which is sold under the name of Ward's paste; this consists of equal parts (one pound) of black pepper and elicampane, of fennel seeds (half a pound) and of honey and sugar equal parts, beaten together and well mixed in a mortar. The dose is the size of a nutmeg three times a-day.

As a medicine, pepper is found sometimes serviceable in checking nausea and vomiting, and removing hiccough; it is also used as a stimulant in retrocedent gout and in palsy; the watery infusion forms a useful gargle in relaxation of the ucrela.

The dose of black pepper may be from 10 grains to 20.

SEXUAL AMBIGUITY.

An erroneous idea has been entertained that monstrous combination existed in the same individual, so that such a being might have intercourse with either sex, or copulate *cum scipso!* All this is exploded; and the question of *Hermaphrodites* no longer occupies a place in our enquiries than as a matter of curiosity; nor does it belong to forensic medicine any more than *witchcraft*, a topic that formerly offered abundant scope for dissertation. But that cases occur in which certain peculiarities of conformation, relative to the sexes, are found in one individual, cannot be denied; and the *appearance*, at least, of these has not been a very rare occurrence. Medical men, too, have been repeatedly required to verify the nature of the case in such instances.

That a real participation of the nature of both sexes ever takes place will admit of more than question; though some extraordinary approaches towards it are well authenticated. These notions have been principally founded on irregularities in the organs of generation, which, in some instances, (as in that of the being who was exhibited lately in Paris, and also in this country,) have been combined with other associations of a mixed nature—certain parts of the body resembling the female, and alternating with others belonging to the male structure.

In almost every case where due examination has been made, such persons have been found to belong decidedly to the one sex or the other. Notwithstanding the case of dissection reported by Petit, in which a soldier, aged twenty-two, not only had the testes in the abdomen, but also a womb and nearly the whole apparatus of female organs of generation, we cannot but conclude that things have been called by wrong names. Nor does the case recently described by Mr. Ring seem of a nature calculated to overturn our incredulity.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

The Newington "Army Medical Board."

That wretched impostor, "Sir" Colombine Daniels, was the first to foist upon the town the humbug of "*Medical Boards*," and from his lucrative and lamentable success in the ruin of health arose the subject of our present comment—the Newington "Army Medical Board." We shall describe the situation of this "Establishment," in order, firstly, that the public may not misunderstand us, (for we do not speak ambiguously in the Annals of Quackery,) and secondly, because Mr. Nesbit, the present proprietor, may have sufficient grounds to bring an action against us for "defamation" similar to what he recently brought against a respectable surgeon, for saying he was an ignorant pretender; and which he so justly lost. Then readers, observe—the house where this *concern* is carried on, is within a few doors of Newington church, near the Elephant and Castle. It is nicely painted out, with gothic doors, and windows rather shabby, the external gate or trap is always ajar, and over it and about it the words "Army Medical Board," broadly emblazoned, catch the passing eye.

Army Medical Board!! We can easily understand what the humbugging constructors of these quackeries meant by "Medical Board," but "*Army* Medical Board" seems so absurd, that the design must have been made by fellows as ignorant in the science of humbugging; as they are in Physic, unless indeed they intended the bait for the lower order of gudgeons, who might mistake this "establishment" for the Army Medical Board of Berkley Street, and its quondam proprietor for the Director General of Army Hospitals, Sir James M'Gregor! This no doubt was the ill-imagined intention; for the inference which it carries is that the Board only will receive military patients. The thing is clear—they committed a piracy upon the title of the Army Medical Board, which carries such bad taste in the art of Quackery, that the proprietors must be at once pronounced as stupid as they are igno-

rant, and wholly unworthy to be ranked as disciples of that most essentially qualified impostor "Sir" Colombine.

What should we think of a couple of provision dealers, who, having laid in a stock of coals, salt pork, biscuit, cheese and beer—wrote in gilded letters over their warehouse, "Military Commissariat Department?"—Who could think them any thing but fools? Just as much propriety and common sense is manifested in the constructors of the quackery now under consideration.

The original proprietor and inventor is a man* who although respectable in his proper calling, has forgot propriety in commencing quack. He was a clerk in the real Army Medical Board, Berkely Street, when Mr. Keats was Surgeon General, and in 1809 he was appointed Purveyor's clerk, and was upon the Walcheren expedition. From this expedition he returned to the Board again, and by some unaccountable means obtained a commission in one of the departments attached to the army. At the peace he was placed upon half pay, and having nothing particular to occupy his enterprising mind, he sat up this "Board," in conjunction with another, and their paper puffs flew like showers of snow all over London.

When these men first set up in their new calling, the havock they committed upon the health and lives of the poor deluded creatures who came to them was immense. Their bills being industriously circulated through the cottages about Walworth and Kennington, crowds beset the door of the quacks, like flies round a basin of molasses—to taste and die. One of the "Doctors" sat in his "Study" every day with "Spectacles on nose and pouch on side." a volume of anatomical plates laid open before him, a case of surgical instruments—knives, saws, and pincers, smiling in ghastly light, and from the shelf looked down "the eyeless sockets of some wretch long dead." The other partner usually introduced the patient, and going through sundry motions of examination as the case required—tongue, pulse, watch, hum—and all that—the two Savans began a discourse in mock Latin, in order to give weight to their consultation.

The following will give the reader an idea of this classical dialogue.

1st Partner.—(*Entering with a patient.*) Doctor, this is a case of Salamagophia. We want your opinion.

2nd Partner.—(Pulling his glasses down to their saddle.) Salamagophia, indeed? I thought this disease was completely routed since we cured the three young women at Clapham. Come forward my girl—sit down—sit down, (*aside to his partner,*) hic domus hoc bonus mocus Salamagophia.

1st Partner.—Non, Doctorum non

2nd Partner.—Well, my woman, how do you find yourself?

Patient.—(agitated,) I have a great cough, Sir—can hardly catch my breath—no appetite, and I am falling away to a skeleton.

2nd. Partner.—Hum—What business are you?

Patient.—Mother takes in washing and I used to assist her, but now I grow so weak, that I can be of no assistance to her; and I wish to get well, because she is not able, by herself, to do enough for my six little brothers and sisters, (here the poor girl shed tears.) I would pay you any thing I could afford, to get well.

1st Partner. Come, come, come, we'll cure you, my dear, we'll cure you. Our charges are moderate—let's see—we'll say a guinea.

Patient.—I brought only half a guinea, Sir, but I will give you the remainder, please God, in a short time.

1st. Partner. Very well — but it is not a thing we do—however (taking the money,) you will recollect to bring the other half guinea.

Patient.—Sir, I hope I will, I'll try to raise it on my clothes.

2nd. Partner.—Let me see, let me see, (feeling her pulse) I think her mavus gullosusis affected.—

1st Partner.—(Taking her other

* The person here alluded to has quitted the "Board" at the earnest solicitation of his friends, and we are heartily glad of it; for were he still in it, the duty we owe to the public and to the principles of our paper, must have overcome the respect we have for the military body to which he belongs. We therefore let him down easy.

hand.) Hum—Nobis Domine hoc hac.

2nd Partner.—Hoc hac! Poh! nonsense—salibus sed Salamagophia nostrum desiribus physicur.

1st Partner.—Ay—ay—but—sulus drugastis non dearum et bonus Domine.

2nd Partner.—Tincturum non but Glauberum saltus et make payo agaiinum.

1st Partner.—Vocativo caret heckum and hockum Domine.

2nd Partner. (To the patient.) That will do my good girl, go into the surgery, and you shall have your medicine—and—I say—you are to come the day after to-morrow, with the remainder of the money.

Thus ends the consultation—the poor suffering girl, with a disease requiring the most able and most prompt advice, goes home with a bottle of salts and water, and a few pills of God knows what—perhaps of drugs the most injurious—and for this she has been forced to curtail the little requisites of her hard-working parent and poor little brothers and sisters! How many cases even worse than this occur every day in the week with the numerous other Quacks! Hundreds are hourly falling before the hydra, yet not a hand is held out by the legislature to turn aside the monster and scarcely a tongue to fright him! Let us entreat our readers to extend the cry which we have raised against him; let them pass it from mouth to mouth, until the ears of some philanthropic member of parliament may catch the sound, and make himself immortal by crushing the cause. When we see a jew pedlar, a tape seller, a bill-sticker, a drayman, a breeches maker, a wheel turner, a black negro, and a cow driver, all set down in various parts of this metropolis, and with the whole range of potent drugs, and the power of the press at their command, dealing out indiscriminate destruction for base profit amongst unsuspecting and confiding dupes—when we see the most ultra attention paid to the reformation of inconveniences, (for we can scarcely call them abuses,) while this stalking dragon is vomiting fire upon us—is it not an evidence of the blindness which the long habit of gazing upon that fire has produced upon the people? We would compromise our opinions with the legislature, and let them have their stamp duty upon patent medicines and nostrums; for they are in general harmless, and some of real benefit, so much so as to have been taken into the Pharmacopœia. James's powder, for instance, Dover's powder, Griffith's mixture, Rufus's pill, &c., and many of those public medicines have been invented by able physicians—but let the quacks—the ignorant, presuming and heartless quacks be hunted from amongst us as wild beasts—they are like madmen with daggers—their words are the breath of destruction. Most of their drugs are strong poisons, either from an improper quantity given, or unseasonable administration — the word of the prescriber makes them either good or evil, health or disease, death or life, and who will, with his eyes open, run the risk of such awful chances upon the word of an illiterate presumer? As far as we have gone we have met with the hearty approbation of the public in all parts of England, and have received many offers of public support against the quacks, should they try to stop our pens by the law, and we can truly say from the nature of our public correspondence, that no measure of public benefit ever adopted by parliament could be received with more heartfelt gratitude by all ranks of society, than a law to put down the quacks, and until something may be done to remedy the evil we shall continue to unmask and castigate them to the utmost of our power.

*** We want something more about "Sir" Charles Aldis, Sloan and Co., (Mr. Frudberg,) Whitlaw, and those most impudent depredators the Whitworth doctors. We also should be thankful for the names of those clergymen who support quacks, and *recommend* them from the *pulpit*. They deserve a word or two—quack clergymen should confine their practice to their own calling, and not meddle with quacks of a different profession.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

FINDING that you are determined in

your valuable publication, to expose at all events the alarming delusions practised upon the public by that destructive and satanic tribe of villains, the quacks. I have a case to lay before you of a most aggravated nature. I unfortunately for myself purchased that book of falsehood called the "Œgis of Life" set out by that pocket-picking crew "Goss and Co." Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London. On reading over its contents, I found cases * of self * * * treated on, similar to my own, which had come under their notice, and was cured in a few weeks. I being eager to have myself restored to my wonted strength and vigour, was induced to apply to them, in order to get some relief. Accordingly I sent a letter, inclosing a one pound note for their advice, in which I described my case in as particular a manner as I possibly could. I immediately received an answer, stating the great honour I had done them applying for their advice, upon such an interesting case as my own, and to me of the greatest moment, also that they would make me equal to the most sudden impulses provided I strictly attended to the further direction which they would lay down for my government. But what shocked me most, was, that I must send a £5 note—the charge for the first box of medicine, and after that I had two boxes more, for which I paid other £5, making the sum £11!!! This sum, Sir, they have swindled me out of, which if I had thrown into the air, would have been better. It was in November last when I first applied to Goss and Co., and have since been taking their medicine up to the present, within about four weeks, when all hopes of relief vanishing, I destroyed the greatest part of the last medicine I received. I greatly fear that my case is desperate, but humbly hope, if possible, that you will afford me relief. My case is this—I at the age of fourteen or fifteen, was led into that destructive practice of &c. &c. *(Here the disease is detailed.)*

G. M. O.

Leeds, April 25, 1824.

[This is a similar case of fraud with that printed in one of our former numbers, and clearly points the system of robbery which Goss and Co. pursue. We advise our correspondent, and all others who have been plundered by this "mock doctor company" and other quacks to bring their actions for recovery. They must refund.] Ed.

* Those cases are all fabricated as so many flies to catch gudgeons. Too much censure cannot be passed upon those booksellers who would sell such a filthy swindling publication as "The Ægis of Life." It is a blot upon the press. It is quite as bad, if not worse, than Courtenay's and Caton's wretched publications.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

Having read your account of night-mare, I agree with Mr. Waller, p. 147, that any position of body is liable to it. I now send you the account of a female, (a married woman) forty years old. I observed to her neighbour how ill she looked; pale, wan face, hollow eyes, &c. "O dear, she labours under a terrible disease," was the answer. I asked what. "She does not like to tell every body, but I will tell you it is the night-mare." "How long has she had it." "These twelvemonths; but for this last six months almost every night." "Has she taken any thing from a physician?" "O yes, but is no better." "Would she try any thing of a cabalistical or occult nature; as natural magic or attraction, as loadstone, &c." "O, she would try any thing from you" was the reply. I replied, "I will bring her something to hang up on the bed's head, as I have cured it in others, it may do her good; if not, it can do no harm." On going home I found a small flint stone, or flat pebble, with a natural hole through it. A thread was put through this hole, and thus it was suspended to the tester or bed's head, and she had it no more. This was about twelvemonths ago; but in three months after it was used, she being freed from her tormentor, one day in cleaning the tester, &c. the thread was broke, and the flint thrown by as of no more use; that very night she was afflicted again as violently as ever; the stone was then remembered as having been taken down, and again restored to its former position. She resides in Gloucester. If you doubt my veracity, I can give the names, but not having consulted them before writing to you, I

do not feel at liberty to insert them. Was this sympathy, antipathy, attraction, or repulsion, or hidden occult qualities in nature? I believe, from my own feelings and observations, some spiritual diabolical agency existed in it, though how far, or in what manner, I cannot say, but I wish your friend Waller had tried the stone on some well educated person, whose knowledge and understanding could not so easily be imposed upon.

[This remedy might have acted upon the mind of the woman in dispelling her fears by the confidence she reposed in it. We do not doubt our Gloucester correspondent who furnished us with the case, but were we ourselves affected with night-mare that remedy never could remove it.] ED.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

HAVING seen in your excellent work, or rather gained a glimpse of that very prince of quacks, Mr. Courtenay, Currie, Townsend, Barrow *alias* Aaron, *alias* &c. &c. I must endeavour to bring him more fully to the light. This fellow is the more dangerous to society, as he is an excellent companion over a bottle, and I do not know whether he has ruined more constitutions by quackery, or cleansed the pockets of novices by false cards and dice. What I relate of this fellow is perfectly true, and only an outline of his character. His real name is Aaron, and a Jew. He put a B before it, and by adding an R, called himself Barron, and under that name married a lady in South Audley-street, the *chere amie* of the old lord Sandwitch, after Miss Ray, of unhappy memory; spending her property, he left her, and married the woman he now lives with, and has a family by. He was in the Bench some time since for the proctor's bill (Mr. Pritchard,) who took up the cause of the unfortunate woman, and to whom he was obliged to allow 1l. per-week. At the time he married her, he was practising under the name of Townsend, in St. Mary Axe, with another noted quack. They dissolved partnership, and this fellow went into Hatton Garden under the name of Currie, *alias* O—. A good joke he played his brother quack and former partner, deserves recording. Meeting him one day (although they were not on very good terms) but knowing he was getting on in the city so as to keep his carriage, he accosted him in the most friendly manner, and asked him to dinner, would take no refusal, sent for two more notorious gamblers, and after dinner the champaigne having circulated sufficiently for his purpose, cards were introduced, and in short, his worthy friend found himself minus about 300l., which entirely clogged the wheel of his carriage, and stopt it.

After parting from his wife, he once met her in Hatton Garden, and beat her severely, for which he was tried at Hicks' Hall, fined and imprisoned, and the papers had an account of the transaction. He left London for Boulogne-sur-Mer, where he, I believe, went by the name of Barron, and after a time he was found out to be nothing more than an impudent blackleg, but at first, having a very good address and person, he was respected. It was there he got the Russian princess for his patient, but he was soon found out. I have heard his wife declare that she has known him to receive 30l. in a few minutes, for a single visit. His present wife was a kind of upper servant to a very old lady, whose son, himself an elderly man, called on Mr. Courtenay, in London, as he came from the country, and seeing every thing in good style, paid to him a considerable sum of money from his mother, on her companion's marriage. He dined with him, and afterwards they went to the play, when they adjourned to a house, where his country friend got something that required all the skill of his medical friend to amend. His bill was dreadful, and indeed it is a story that would fill a volume. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. W.

London, April 1, 1824.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

INDICTMENT EXTRAORDINARY.—Mac Donald; the ex-tailor, cowherd, and Quack Doctor of the Kent-road, is to

visit us with all the thunders of the law. (Lord have mercy on us!) We would ask what part of our expose of this fellow's imposture can he construe into a libel? Is it because we say that he killed the boy, by puncturing an aneurism of the artery of the neck? Or is it because we take from the *respectability* of his "profession," by insinuating that he made his patients drunk, in order to pick their pockets? Or is it because his "Medical" judgment is impugned in the cheesemonger's blister? We only want such a fellow as M'Donald in the Court of King's Bench, frothing for lost "reputation," in order that abler tongues than ours may give him in his proper colours to the world; and thus, perhaps, awaken the legislature to that nest of hornets, the tribe of quacks, and rid society of one of its most lamentable evils.

L'Hotel Dieu.—This hospital, the largest in Paris, contained in the time of the revolution beds for 5,000 patients:—this number has been reduced now to 2,000. The largest hospital in London does not contain more than 500.

Child's Caul.—To be sold for thirty guineas, a child's caul, that has already made seventy two voyages, in which was encountered thirty-eight hurricanes, besides sundry small storms, in which not a single drowning took place. Application to be made at Mr. Underwood, Fleet-street, where two old women attend daily.

N. B. This caul is particularly useful in steam-boats and balloons.

Sir Joseph Yorke's Last Joke.—Mr. Whitlaw, the Scotch Gardener, whom Sir Joseph Yorke, and other enlightened spirits, have in spite of all the faculty can say, taken under their protection, in the hope that by means of the skill he acquired in *republican* America, they may be able to eradicate from amongst us the *evil* that most besets us, happened to mention to the gallant admiral, the other day, that another equally skilful Scotchman, a friend of his, had discovered *a pill to dissolve the stone.* "Poh! Poh!" replied Sir Joseph, whose credulity it would seem has limits, "the thing is not to be done, unless, Doctor, your friend, *can make his pill an Admiral, who is not to fight, nor open his commission, until he arrives at a certain latitude.*"—MAN OF LETTERS.

Accident Extraordinary.—Mr. Briscoe, one of the Surrey magistrates, at a meeting of the quarter sessions last Tuesday in his humane endeavours to bring the odious practice of putting females to the tread-mill, under the consideration of his brother magistrates, was attacked by several bull-dogs in open court, and narrowly escaped being torn to pieces. The dogs are the same that worried the women at the Brixton House of Correction; they are not the genuine English breed, they have a little of the bloodhound in them, and have a great antipathy to women. They should be tied up to prevent further mischief.

There was a female prisoner loaded with body irons, for 24 hours, last week at Coldbath-fields Prison by the direction of Mr. Webb, the surgeon of that gaol, for refusing to answer him some questions, and speaking impertinently. We certainly think that the surgeon ought to be supported in his duty; but such severity as body-ironing ought seldom to be resorted to, and in a gaol hospital never; a straight waistcoat would answer every purpose, if a female is refractory; but even that, by a judicious surgeon, will be needless. If Mr. Webb is unacquainted with the law upon this subject, we beg to inform him, that none can legally put those irons on a prisoner but the gaoler or one deputed by him, and that then a special report of the act must be immediately forwarded to a justice of peace. Although Alderman Wood, Mr. Bevel, Mr. Holme Sumner, and the advocates for the female tread-mill, may approve of Mr. Webb's discipline in this instance, yet we should be sorry to think that there are not amongst the magistrates many who will not.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. D. of Gloucester may recommend diluted citron ointment anointed on the part at night. Equal parts of powdered alum, and sulphate of zinc, will answer the purpose as a styptic, equally as good as Coldbatche's, and is useful in farriery.

A FEMALE OF 30 has done right, nothing can be better than bandages. If, however, she could leave off the pills it would serve her.

W. W. is thanked for his history of Courtenay—his letter shall be published. We hope he will not think us unmindful of his case, the letter was mislaid. He should substitute the acetate of morphine for opium, and begin with small doses. He might also find five grains of squill pill beneficial, taken every night, or second night, for a week. Take a purgative powder of jalap and cream of tartar (not strong) once a week for some time.

EDWARD, OF BRISTOL, must be content to bear with his complaint for a little time, it is not to be cured suddenly. In addition to the medicine prescribed, let him use tepid bathing. We expect that in about two months the tumour will abate.

O. X. O. like most dyspeptic people, is injured by purgatives, the digestive organs must be restored by gentle means. We refer him to our opinions upon indigestion in this and our last number.

E. M. N. (College Edinburgh,) has flattered us by the verses which he has sent. We should publish them, but that it would appear vanity in us. They shall serve to stimulate us still further in our warfare against the quacks.

J. S. We see no particular efficacy in cephalic snuff, but he had better not leave it off as it is a habit. His headache arises from the stomach. Let him consider our remarks upon indigestion of this day.

THOMAS G——e, Compton Street, should send some address, and he will have advice.

A. B. sprained knee—should pump cold water on it once a day and rest.

E. of Bath, will save us a deal of trouble if he will send us the particulars of his case—the former not being at hand.

C——'s favour is received. Next week.

A letter about Jordan &c., unsigned, has come to hand.

P. T. O. In a sudden attack of the spasms should take a glass of hot port wine, with twenty-five or thirty drops of laudanum. We cannot reply in this number to the young female's case, but if an address, with a full statement of symptoms is sent, our advice shall be forwarded.

JACOBUS. Powdered charcoal. In a future number we shall say a word on the subject.

J. C. will find a letter at our publishers.

FRANCIS I—— will find a word on corns in No. 20 of the Medical Adviser, we shall be glad of his offer concerning the quack.

A CONSTANT READER will do better to form a plan of living from our remarks on indigestion, then use bark and wine. Has he used metallic bougies. Weiss in the Strand can direct him to the best.

A CORRESPONDENT at Gloucester, who asks what is become of the *King's Evil*, is informed that it is not quite so prevalent of late years—*except in Spain*. If a full case of the abscess is sent, he shall have advice—state every particular.

We have received many letters complaining of the exorbitant charges of medical men. We wish the authentic bills were sent.

MR. STAUNTON, the Apothecary of the Strand, has called at our publishers, to state that he is not a quack. Can any one tell us to the contrary?

We want a good history of Caton the humbug.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

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EXPLANATION OF THE FIGURE.

A. GALEN'S sling for diseases, especially cancer in the lips.

B. an instrument excellent in wrist wounds; an artery being cut.

C. an instrument to extend a contracted knee.

D. one to extend an arm.

E. an instrument to open a fistula in the thigh.

F. shews the place for issues in the arm.

G. an actual cautery to make issues with.

H. a ligature for issues in the arm.

I. the place for issues in the thigh.

K. for issues in the upper part of the calf.

L. Ligature for thigh and calf issues.

M. an instrument to draw out bullets that lie deep.

N. shews the way of its use.

O. shews the cutting of varices, but not very secure.

P. a deep wound in the thigh by a Persian dart.

Q. the tent to keep it open in the depending part.

R. shews how with a rasp to cleanse the shin bone.

S.; or, where the figures are 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. shews a ligature, when needful for the broad shoulder blade bone, breast, back, or sides.

*** This Description and Plate are copied from a very old work on surgery, more for curiosity than use.

WATER-BRASH.

THE chief characteristics of this disease is a watery discharge from the stomach, with a sense of burning at the pit of the stomach, and frequent eructations. It more particularly affects unmarried females of the middle age, and those afflicted with fluor albus—but males are also liable to it.

Violent emotions of the mind, sudden cold to the feet, and a thin diet, have been set down as the causes; but we think, that to say it is one of the consequences of indigestion, would be the best way.

When a fit of water-brash is approaching, the patient feels a pain in the pit of the stomach, which is much increased on standing erect; and a feeling of tightness, as if the stomach was drawn towards the back-bone. This pain continues a short time, when the eructations follow, and then comes the discharge of water from the stomach—sometimes acid, and sometimes insipid; frequently the discharge is of a thicker consistence than water. The fit usually comes on when the stomach is empty.

The disease is less dangerous than troublesome, and it is apt to continue a long time, unless proper means be taken to invigorate the constitution, and restore the healthy action of the intestinal canal.

Physicians have prescribed a class of medicines for this disease, called anti-spasmodics: such as ether, musk, ammonia, cajeput, opium, and tobacco, but they would have done better to view water-brash as a consequence of indigestion, and turn their attention to removing the cause, instead of palliating that consequence. We recommend our readers, who may labour under this complaint, to follow the directions laid down under the head of Dyspepsia, generally, and to relieve the acidity, to take calcined magnesia. This is a simple plan, but, perhaps, more efficacious than a more complicated one. However, in cases which appear obstinate, something else may be tried, and we recommend the treatment which Dr. Bradley has described in the Medical Reports as successful; it is as follows:— Having first given an emetic he administered a dose of castor-oil, and the next day he commenced his specific, which is the oxide of bismuth, and gum-tragacanth. The proportions were three grains of the bismuth, and fifteen of the tragacanth, mixed into a powder, and taken three times a-day for a week, and then gradually increased to double the dose. This, he reports, was completely successful. Linnæus recommended the use of nux vomica in the dose of from ten grains to a scruple. three times a day.

If patients are so fortunate as to get rid of this unpleasant companion, they should be most scrupulously careful to invigorate their constitutions by the plan we have laid down

in our last number, when concluding our opinions upon indigestion.

GROCER'S DISEASE.

THERE is a disagreeable disease attending grocers who have much to do in handling sugar. The hands first become chapped, pustules appear upon them, and if they continue to handle sugar, a settled callous ulceration follows. We recommend the use of gloves, made of parchment, to prevent the disease, as well as to assist in curing. Those affected with it should every night keep their hands in warm water for half an hour, then touch the parts with diluted citron ointment, and put on a pair of soft leather gloves, in which they should sleep. In the morning the proper gloves above alluded to, should be put on, and the hands by no means allowed to come in contact with the sugar until the disease is quite removed.

TONGUE TIED.

MOST nurses when they see the infant's tongue not unnaturally long, immediately say that the child is tongue tied. They should not trouble themselves whether this is the case or not, until the infant is at least ten or twelve months old, and then if they suspect the malformation to exist, they should go to an experienced surgeon, who will with the point of a scissors divide the *frenum*, or that part which bends to the tip of the tongue downwards. We say an *experienced* surgeon, because although the operation is simple, yet if carelessly done, may be attended with bad consequences. If the artery be wounded, the infant will suck its own blood till it expires. We have known of Druggists' and Apothecaries' young men attempting this operation, and therefore warn our readers of such danger.

HEMATEMESIS; OR, VOMITING OF BLOOD.

IN this disease the throwing up of blood from the stomach can be easily distinguished from blood coming from the lungs, by its being preceded by a feeling of weight, anxiety, and pain in the pit of the stomach; by its being in greater quantity; by being dark-coloured, and sometimes mixed with masticated food, and by its being unaccompanied by cough.

It most frequently arises from obstructions in the periodical affections of women, and hemorrhoidal in men, or from obstructions in the liver; but it often is occasioned by blows, hurts, and wounds, or from taking into the stomach some highly irritating substance.

The great danger of this complaint is the debility which a continuance of it must produce.

To remove it, the patient must avoid exercise, use cold drinks, (acidulated water with a few drops of diluted sulphuric aid, taken several times a day) will be of benefit, and the following astringent given in the dose of twenty or thirty drops every hour. *Tincture of muriated iron.* Castor oil is to be employed as an aperient in moderate doses.

Dr. Hamilton states that he has met with many cases in females from eighteen to thirty years of age, that resisted the usual mode of treatment, which soon yielded to the free use of purgatives. We think every other means should be first tried. In extreme cases, a blister over the region of the stomach should be applied.

INSTANTANEOUS RELIEF FOR THE TOOTH-ACHE.

A pill of opium and camphor, or a solution of camphor in oil of turpentine, put into the hollow of a carious tooth, affords almost immediate relief in tooth-ache.

QUALITIES OF THE BLOOD.

"BLOOD is a fluid of a rich and beautiful colour; it is vermilion-coloured in the arteries, strong purple in the veins, and black, or almost so, at the right side of the heart; it feels thick and unctuous betwixt the fingers, is of a slightly saline taste, and varies somewhat in the depth of its colour in various parts of the body. In various individuals, but much more in

different animals, it varies with their functions and manner of life; it is different in birds, in fishes, in insects; it is thick or thin, has gross particles or small, is red or pale, warm or cold, in different classes of animals: and from this last variety comes our division of animals into those of warm and cold blood.

"It is by the most simple and natural methods that we examine the blood; since almost spontaneously it resolves itself into the CRASSAMENTUM, the SERUM, and the RED GLOBULES, suspended in the crassamentum, and forming a part of it. In a cup of blood, the crassamentum, or clot, the hepar sanguineum, as it was called long ago, floats in the serum; the red globules are engaged in this clot, and give it colour; the serum may be poured off; the coagulum may be washed till it is freed of the red parts of the blood, and then the red particles are found in the water with which the coagulum was washed, and the coagulum remains upon the strainer, little reduced in size, pure and white, the fibrine and gluten. Or we may separate this part by a method which Ruysch first taught us; we may, while the blood is congealing, stir it with a bunch of rods, when the pure and colourless fibrine gathers upon the rods, and the serum, with the red particles suspended in it, remains behind. The coagulable part was called fibrum, from the fibrous appearance it assumes in this experiment, a name it has retained.

OF THE RED GLOBULES.

The red globules, as we have observed, are not universal; yet in all creatures, even in colourless insects, there seem to be formal particles in the blood: in white insects they are white, in green insects they are green, in most insects they are transparent.

"The red globules of the human blood are easily seen; they are best examined with a simple lens, the globules being diluted in serum and laid upon an inclined plane, not in water, which dissolves them quickly, but in serum, which has the property of preserving their globular form. The watery solution of this part of the blood turns the syrup of violets green, and contains soda and alkumen.—The size of the particles of the blood varies in various creatures: it is asserted that, in the fœtus, they are bigger than in a grown animal: and although Leeuwenhoek thought it essential to his doctrine to say that they were alike in all creatures, there are, in respect to the size of the animals, the strangest reverses. The Skate has red globules much larger, and the Ox has globules much smaller than those of a man. Fish have large globules, serpents smaller ones, and man smaller still. In man, the diameter of each globule has been estimated not to exceed the two hundred thousandth part of an inch.

"There is in the effect of lenses, or in the nature of these globules, some strange refraction, by which there seems a darkness in the centre of each globule, and thence a deception which has been universal; so that no single description has tallied with that which went before. Leeuwenhoek believed that he saw them consisting each of six well compacted smaller globules. Hewson believed that they were bladders, which had within them some central body, loose and moveable: that often the central part might be seen rolling in its bag; and that sometimes the bladder was shrunk and shrivelled around the central body, and could by putting a drop of water upon it, be plumped up again. The Abbé Torre examined them with simple lenses too; but they magnified so highly, that from this cause all his noisy mistake has arisen; for he used not ground lenses but small spherieles of glass formed by dropping melted glass into water; they magnified so much, that to him the central spot appeared much darker; he said that these were not globules, but rings. He sent his spherieles of glass and his observations from Italy, his own country, to our Royal Society; and for a long while, though nobody could see them, still the public were annoyed by Abbé Torre's rings. Falconer, with all the zeal of a friend, published Hewson's discoveries after he was dead; lamenting, as we all must do, the loss of a promising young man. Falconer thought he saw these globules, not as spheres, but as flattened spheres; he thought he saw them

often as they rolled down the inclined plane upon which he placed them, turning their edges, their sides, their faces, towards the eye; he even compared their flatness with that of a coin. Many authors have conjectured that these globules are compressed when they come into narrow passages, and expand again when they get into wider arteries. This Reichel says he has seen, and Blumenbach believes; but Blumenbach, less easy of belief with regard to all these strange forms ascribed to the particles of the blood, pronounces his dissent in plain terms. 'They appear,' says he, 'to my eye no other than simple globules apparently of mucus: that lenticular or oval form which authors speak of, I have not seen.

"The following are their chief properties with regard to the rest of the blood. When blood stands, they fall to the bottom, because they are heavier than the other parts of the blood: and although the fibrine or gluten entangles them while it is forming, still it is to be noticed that the cake is always redder at the bottom; and when by weakness or disease this coagulation is very slow, some globules escape the grasp of the coagulum, and the serum is tinged with red, and the cake, though coloured at the bottom, is white at the top, or has the buffy coat. Their form they preserve only while in the blood, and seem to be supported more by the qualities of the serum than by their own properties; for if mixed with water, they mix easily, and totally dissolve; the water is red, but the globules are gone; when we mean to preserve their forms for experiment, we must keep them in serum, or must make an artificial serum by impregnating water with salts. Their quantity, in regard to the whole mass, varies so, that the appearance of the blood is a real index of health or disease; in disease or weakness, the blood is poor and colourless; in health and strength, it is rich and florid; by labour, red particles may be accumulated in a wonderful degree; in hard working men they abound; they may be accumulated by exercise into particular parts, as in the wings of moorfowl or pigeons, and in the legs of common hens. In short, the red globules are numerous in health: in large and strong creatures; and in the centre of the system, where they often circulate, when (as in fishes) all the flesh is colourless; in such a system, particular glands only, or viscera, as the liver, stomach, or spleen, are coloured with blood, and but a small proportion circulates in the great vessels round the heart.

"The redness of these particles is a peculiarity for which we know no meaning nor cause. The greatest physiologists have ascribed it to the iron of the blood. According to Berzelius, about one-fourth of the dry colouring matter is oxyde of iron.

COAGULABLE LYMPH.

"The coagulable part, the cake which is left when we wash away the red globules, that which has been called the gluten, and now the fibrine, is by far the most important part of the blood, the most universally diffused in the animal system, the most necessary for the supply and growth of parts. It spontaneously concretes, and neither heat nor cold, nor dilation will prevent its coagulation. It forms all the solids, and in its properties resembles them most curiously; for this cake, when washed, is white, insipid, extremely tenacious, and very fibrous; can be drawn out greatly; and it is the coagulation of this part that makes the long fibrous strings which we find in the tub when bleeding a patient in the foot in very hot water. Being slightly dried, it shrinks into a substance like parchment; being hardened by heat, it becomes like a piece of horn or bone: when burnt it shrinks and crackles, with a very fetid smell, like the burning of feathers, wool, flesh, or any other animal substance; by which we know it to be the part of the blood which is the most perfectly animalized, and the most ready to be assimilated with the living solids. When distilled, it gives ammoniacal salt and alkaline water, and a very thick heavy fetid oil, and much mephitis, which are the marks of the most perfect animal nature; and after burning it, the residuum is a phosphate of lime, or, in other words, the earth of bones.

"What passes within the animal body, or how this gluten is directly applied, we never can know; but we see how the greater part of the body is composed of fibrine, and no analysis of any single part has ever disappointed us. A muscle being squeezed and thoroughly cleansed of blood, washed in spirits of wine, and again cleansed, is seen plainly to be but a peculiar form of coagulable lymph or fibrine. A bone being infused in any mineral acid, or in vinegar, its earthy parts are dissolved even to its centre; it becomes soft and flexible, still retains the form of a bone; but what remains consists principally of coagulable lymph. Fourcroy has said that coagulable lymph is that part upon which nature fixes irritability, or the contractile power, he should have added; 'but this gluten is moreover in the animal body the basis of every part which possesses life;' it constitutes, in truth, no less than nine-tenths of the solids of the whole body. The membranes, ligaments, tendons, periosteums, and all the white parts of the animal body, consist chiefly of this. It is this fibrous part, then, which is secreted by the vessels for repairing all the wastes, and all the accidents of the body.

THE SERUM.

"The serum is the thinnest and most fluid of the parts of the blood, into which it spontaneously separates; and it contains those substances which one is almost tempted to call extraneous. It is a fluid like whey, of a yellowish, or rather greenish colour, of an unctuous or slippery feeling among the fingers; it is slightly saline, and contains various salts in solution, and turns vegetable reds to green. It coagulates with a heat much lower than that which makes it boil; being dropped into hot water it coagulates as it falls; by 150 degrees of heat it coagulates into the albumen.

"But by this influence of heat the whole does not coagulate, but only the albumen, a substance like the white of an egg; what remains fluid is the serosity. On cooling, the serosity coagulates like size or jelly. This coagulation arises from the gelatin dissolved in the water; and this gelatin may be precipitated by various re-agents, but especially by tannin, and by alcohol. After the separation of the gelatin, there remains only the salts in watery solution: these are muriate of soda, phosphate of soda, and phosphate of lime.

"This analysis of the blood contains the analysis of almost all the humours or secretions of the body. We perceive that the materials, of which the body is constructed, are contained in the blood, or formed from that fluid. It is true that we find in the body various substances, which do not exist *formally* in the blood, but which are new compounds out of the materials, which, by the imperfect aids of chemistry, we discover in it."

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

A gold ring rubbed on Sore Eyes.

Mere superstition.

Yeast given in putrid Fevers.

This remedy has been used by the faculty, but it should always be confined to them.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A powder for Gonorrhœa.

Six drachms of cream of tartar.

Eight drachms of powdered gum arabic.

Mixed and divided into 18 parts.—One three times a-day, in a glass of warm water.

A Draught good in Dropsical Complaints.

Of fennel-water, one ounce.

Tincture of cantharides, 15 drops.

Spirit of nitric æther, one drachm.

Compound spirit of juniper, 2 drachms.

Mix them.—This draught may be taken two or three times a day.

MARRIAGE BEDS.

We are aware that by taking up our pen in this article, we are about to bring a phalanx most respectable of married ladies upon our backs, hammer and tongs: at the same time we shall not be without an equally respectable, and perhaps more numerous crowd in our favour. In all pro-

bability the inventor or introducer of umbrellas had not a more formidable power arrayed against him in the hackney-coach and chair-men, than we shall have, as soon as the twenty-third number of our "Medical Adviser" issues from Paternoster Row. But we must speak the truth, and although the must of medical science has never yet been able to tarnish our gallantry and our accommodating spirit towards the softer sex, yet feeling that a most important charge is now in our hands, we cannot compromise our duties to the public even to oblige the most beautiful and most amorous portion of the ladies.

We are about to recommend, (Oh! awful thought!) SEPARATE BEDS FOR MARRIED PEOPLE!

The words are out: we cannot recall them.—Now do we fancy that we see thousands of our little papers suffering beneath the pointed nails and violent gripe of female fingers. Now do we fancy the thousands of gentle and approving eyes that were wont to hail us with delight, and sanctify us with their glances, suddenly overcast with knitted brows, and burning with dread rage, more vivid than the parlour fire which in a moment is destined to consume us. Offended feet now trample on us, and connubial talons tear us to pieces!

But softly sweet ladies: do not execute judgment upon us until you have heard all we have to say upon the subject. Some of you may perhaps remain unrelenting; but those who put aside their tempers, and who will listen to us calmly, will doubtless be inclined to our opinions at last.

By *separate beds* we do not mean eternal separation. Heaven and all earthly happiness forbid! Nor do we mean that the long winter nights should pass in solitary coldness—nay even shorter summer ones should not be wholly passed alone; but we mean to propose that practice which has been time out of mind adopted in Spain, a country where husbands love their wives as well as we do, and it is never abandoned unless poverty forbids it. The bed-chamber of the Spanish married people in general have a recess, in which are two beds; sometimes there is a space between them, and sometimes they are quite close together; one is for the wife, and the other for the husband. But it does not follow that they, each of them, occupy their respective places apart. It is only under particular circumstances that the husband sleeps away from his wife's bed.

Let our reflecting readers consider this custom in all its bearings, and they will agree with us—that it would be worthy of being adopted in this country.

It is needless for us to enumerate *all* the circumstances which would render the use of another bed necessary, agreeable, and healthy; one or two will be enough. Hot weather, for instance, or illness—to say nothing of the husband, who rolls home of a night speechless, with the magic of the grape. Two beds close together in the same room, may prevent those people who wish, from leaving one wholly useless; but there are times when the fondest couples would do no violence to their affections in sleeping alone. Two people sleeping in one bed, during hot weather, injure health, from the excess of caloric which the contact retains. Suppose such a couple as Sir William Curtis and his corpulent lady! In winter no harm can arise from it; and we think that instead of cooling affection between husband and wife, it would tend to strengthen and promote it.

Ladies, pray consider our opinions upon this head calmly: remember we have no object, but the promotion of health and comfort in thus giving them.

CAMPHOR, ITS QUALITIES, &c.

THE species of laurel, from which the camphor is furnished, is a native of Japan; but the greatest portion brought to this country, comes from Sumatra, and is the produce of a tree belonging to a different genus altogether from the laurel—the Dryobalans *Camphora*. The camphor laurel rises to a considerable height, is much branched, and covered with a smooth greenish bark. Specimens of it are common in our hot-houses; but they rarely flower. Camphor is not the production of those plants

merely from which that known in commerce is obtained, but has also been procured from the roots of the cinnamon, cassia, and sassafras laurels; from those of galaligala, zedoary, ginger; and from cardomum seeds and long pepper. The essential oils of lavender, sage, thyme, peppermint, rosemary, and several other plants yield it: and an artificial camphor is prepared, by passing muriatic acid gas through oil of turpentine. The varieties thus obtained, differ in some respects from common camphor. Zea describes a variety of camphor, which is procured in South America, from a tree, the botanical characters of which are not yet known, but which is termed *caratte* by the natives. It exudes from the bark in the form of tears.

The roots of the camphor laurel, as well as the wood and leaves, have a very strong odour of camphor; and from the roots and smaller branches it is obtained by distillation. They are cut into chips, which are suspended in a net, within a kind of still, or iron pot, the bottom of which, is covered with water, and an earthen head fitted to it, heat is then applied, and the steam of the boiling water penetrating the contents of the net, elevates the camphor into the capital, where it concretes on straws, with which this part of the apparatus is lined; but the greater part of the camphor brought to Europe, is obtained in Sumatra, where the trees which yield it are cut and split, and the camphor which is found concerted in the heart of them, is picked out, and washed in a ley of soap. It is imported into this country in chests, drums, and casks, and is in small granular, friable masses, of a dirty white, or greyish colour, very much resembling in appearance, half-refined sugar, it often contains earth and other impurities.

Camphor was introduced into Europe by the Arabians; formerly all the crude camphor brought to Europe, was purified by the Venetians, and afterwards by the Dutch, who kept the art secret, but it is now practised to a considerable extent in this country; it is sublimed in glass vessels after being mixed with one-twentieth of its weight of quick lime, and is afterwards fused, either "by encreasing the heat suddenly when the sublimation is almost ended, without transpiring the camphor into different vessels, or by melting the sublimed flowers in a vessel for that purpose;" thus refined, it is in large round cakes, about two or three inches thick, concave on one side, convex on the other, and generally perforated.

Pine camphor has a strong, peculiar, fragrant, penetrating odour, and a bitter, pungent, aromatic taste, it is white, transparent, unctuous to the touch, and friable, breaking with a shining foliated or tubular fracture, which displays a crystalline texture, and although brittle, yet it is also in some degree ductile, and not easily pulverised. It swims on water, its specific gravity being 0·9887, and is so volatile, that if it be not well kept in stopped vessels, it loses a very considerable proportion of its bulk and weight, by evaporation, particularly in a moist atmosphere. It melts at a temperature of 88°, boils at 400, and sublimes in close vessels, crystallizing unchanged in hexagonal plates; it is readily ignited, and burns with a brilliant flame, giving out much smoke; when triturated with water, very little is dissolved, although it communicates to the water its odour and pungency, but the addition of carbonic acid gas augments very much the solvent power of water over camphor. Alcohol ether, the fixed and volatile oils, the sulphuric and nitrous acids a little diluted, and the muriatic, the strong ascetic, and the fluoric acids dissolve camphor, which is again separated unaltered from these solutions, by the addition of water. Concentrated sulphuric acid, decomposes it, forming artificial tannin, and repeatedly distilling it with nitric acid, it is converted into camphoric acid.

Alkalies exert scarcely any action on camphor, but it unites with, and converts into a soft tenacious mass, the hardest resinous substances. Camphor when mixed with clay, and distilled in close vessels is decomposed, and resolved into a volatile oil and charcoal, in the proportion according to Bouillon la Grange, of 45·856 of

the former, and 30·571 of the latter, hence, as a chemical compound, it appears to differ from the essential oils, only in containing a larger proportion of carbon. Dr. Thompson says its ultimate components, are carbon 6·375, hydrogen 1·250, oxygen 1·000.

Camphor is stimulant, narcotic, and diaphoretic, but its stimulant powers are very transitory, and followed by sedative effects. The Arabians first appeared to have used camphor as a medicine, and by them it was regarded as a refrigerant, an opinion which even, in more recent times, has been the subject of much controversy. In moderate doses it operates as a cordial, increasing the heat of the body and exhilarating, besides softening and rendering fuller the pulse, and promoting diaphorisis; in larger doses it allays irritation and spasm, abates pain and induces sleep, but in immoderate doses, camphor produces vomitting, vertigo, delirium, convulsions, and deleterious effects.

As a stimulant camphor is beneficially used in all fevers of the typhoid kind, cynanche maligna, malignant measles, confluent small pox, and as an adjunct to bark and opium to check the progress of gangrene, and in spasmodic affections, as hysteria, epilepsy, chorea, asthma, and painful menstruation. Its narcotic and anodyne effects being produced with very little increase of pulse, it has been successfully employed for allaying pain and irritation, even in some inflammatory diseases, as pneumonia, acute rheumatism, gonorrhœa, small-pox, when attended with convulsions, gout, and the delirium of mania and inflammatory fevers; but in these cases its use should be preceded by evacuations, and the remedy itself combined with nitre or antimonials. Camphor is also given internally to obviate the irritating effects of some other medicines, as mezerion, cantharides, the saline preparations of mercury, and drastic purgatives; to correct the nauseating property, and prevent the irritation which squill is apt to produce on the coats of the bladder.

Camphor may be administered in the solid form; but as in this state it is apt to occasion nausea, it is generally ordered in a state of minute division, suspended in fluids by means of mucilage or the yolk of eggs.

As a local anodyne, camphor is used in frictions, dissolved in oils, alcohol, or acetic acid, for allaying rheumatism and muscular pains; and, with the addition of laudanum, it is found of great efficacy, when rubbed on the abdomen in flatulent cholic, dysentry, and inflammations of the viscera in collyria: it is useful in opthalmia, and dissolved in oil, as an injection in ardor urinæ; and as an enema in the tenesmus, occasioned by ascarides, or other irritations of the rectum.

The dose of camphor is from two grains to one scruple, repeated at shorter or longer intervals, according to the extent of the dose. The bad effects of an over-dose are most effectually obviated by opium.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

"YOU will delight to hear that Jordan's course is turned! they have actually had to pay double carriage of a large chest, crammed with Rakasiri and puff pamphlets, sent to Carlisle, but were there refused to be taken, your remarks having either awakened the slumbering conscience of their agent, or opened the eyes of the inhabitants. 'Oh Israel, Israel, how art thou fallen.' it is rumoured that Daniels the Life Preserver, who has of late years become Cooper, the *Life Destroyer*, of the Medical Board, is about to make his third or final transition from the immeasurable distance of his last two callings; what his next assumption will be, it is beyond the stretch of human imagination to conceive. I enclose you Harvey among the Tombs, opposite the church-wall, Shoe-lane, a golden head over the door, and a lamp in the passage at night.

(The Bill.)

"Delays are dangerous! Doctor Harvey's pills and drops found a speedy, safe, and efficacious remedy, in all stages of the venereal disease.

"These valuable medicines need no eulogium, having stood the test of

time and experience; to enumerate the respective cures, would fill volumes; and such is their notoriety, that thousands of both sexes, have effected a permanent cure, with ease and secrecy, by an early application and strict attention to the plain and simple directions accompanying the medicines.

"Married women, who, from incontinent husbands, may have fallen into an unpleasant dilemma, and others from an unguarded hour, may consult a respectable female of the strictest veracity, who gives her advice and attention every evening, between the hours of four and eight, at the proprietor's house, 53, Shoe-lane, five doors from Holborn-hill, opposite the Church-wall." (!!!)*

Is not this latter indication too plain and indelicate to be mistaken. Finding a decrease of business, and time hanging heavy on his hands, actually metamorphoses himself into a respectable old woman (it is but one little step it is true,) four hours each day, for the avowed purpose of administering to those unhappy wives, who may be suffering from their husbands' incontinence! Now really this is burlesque in perfection, which did certainly call forth a smile, but it was a short-lived one, succeeded by the shudder of humanity, at the idea of the deluded many who were now groaning in anguish under an accumulation of disease, confirmed and heaped upon them by these deliberate villains.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. C.

P. S. I intended giving you some further insight of the practices of some regular practitioners, but must for want of space defer it.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

PERMIT me to be one amongst the constant readers of your useful and amusing work, to thank you for the well merited scourging you have given those bloodsuckers the quacks. I have heard of a gentleman, who, when a quack doctor came to reside next door to him, adopted the plan of keeping a parcel of ducks, to entertain the Doctor, with the cry of quack, quack, quack, all day long. This plan of routing him succeeded, for the joke getting wind in the neighbourhood, obliged the Doctor to decamp. Your plan is infinitely better, inasmuch as it threatens the utter destruction of the whole race. The stir you have created amongst them, aptly resembles the confusion experienced by a colony of bugs, in a bedstead of long standing, on the application of a kettle of scalding water; or a bottle of oil, to their lurking holes. You, Sir, have scalded them, if the public will but do their part, and stifle them beyond recovery by withholding all countenance to their nefarious practices; their extirpation will be certain. You have requested your readers to "contribute what they can," I therefore beg to enclose a small man-trap which was thrust into my hand yesterday in the streets of Bath, by a fellow who made a set at me, and seemed determined I should not pass without taking his bait. It is issued, (as you will perceive) by "Dr." Lamert; from his "*Medical Establishment*," 54, Queen Square, Bristol. Casting my eye upon the name, I immediately recollected a letter from one of your correspondents, (Vide No. 16,) describing who this Lamert is; and I determined to send you his hand-bill. The point to which I beg to direct your attention, is, the art with which "Dr." Lamert, himself being a quack, inveighs against the practice of it. This is truly the wolf putting on sheeps' clothing. Perhaps he finds this plan necessary, in consequence of your unmerciful exposure of his tribe. Query. When he states it to have been so "frequently," his "painful lot to witness the deplorable condition to which people have been reduced by mercenary and perfidious quackery,"—does he not mean his own quackery? And may not the true reading of the next sentence, be, that he has therefore made the seducing of, credulous victims, "his

* Was there ever such an egregious scoundrel as this? a *Woman* attends! When we commenced to broom the quacks we really did not expect to meet with such filth.

particular study," finding that, the most profitable? But leaving these matters to your better judgment and decision, I shall feel happy if this communication may be considered but as a mite in the service of your cause, and remain, yours respectfully,

W. L.

Bath, April 28th, 1824.

P. S. Is not the fictious firm of "Goss and Co.," carried on by a person named Crucifix, and has he not a brother, who has married a young lady, and set up Blacking Maker at a village in Somersetshire? *Yes.* (ED.)

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

YOUR laudable and fearless exposure of the quacks, induces me to present you with the following piece of information relating to Doctor Gardiner, the worm dealer. Passing his house this day, I ventured to step in, on pretence, in order to examine more minutely, than I was able to do through the glass window, a long piece of chicken gut, exhibited for a worm. Within this man's shop, (I noticed against an electrical machine kept conspicuously on the counter for shew,) a handsome box, labelled with gold letters, "donations and subscriptions received here, in aid of Gospel Missionaries, by Dr. Gardiner," this box struck me as being an artful and pharisaical contrivance on the part of Gardiner to lead weak people to suppose that he is a good christian, and consequently incapable of imposition in his equivocal profession, thereby inspiring confidence in the efficacy of his worm cakes. These quacks are cunning enough to know the effect produced by shamming off a spice of religious cant, as will be seen by a reference to most of their puffing advertisements, in which they generally tack, 'the blessing of God,' to the virtues of their nostrums. The sight of Gardiner's box, suggested the similarity there appears to be in the artful trickery of the religious, to the medical quacks, they both fish in one boat, witness the enclosed hand-bill, and the wall placarding all over the town, of Alex. Fletcher, M. A. This reverend I know to be patron and puffer to an empiric, whose name I forgot. Cameron I think it is. The Lecturer of Boys in Bathing rooms, is also of the same stamp with Fletcher. When a well known disgraceful circumstance was first published of the latter divine, I heard with my own ears a pupil of his, violently exclaim from his pulpit, in Kennington Chapel, (evidently alluding indirectly to the report,) that those who despised God's ministers, despised God.

I am, Sir, Yours &c

J. H.

(The Hand Bill.)

"Observe! now is your time for unexampled bargains!!!

"List of ministers engaged to preach a cheap Thursday Morning Lecture, at the low price of two guineas each sermon, at Albion Chapel, Moorgate, for the year 1824.

April 1. Rev. Alexander Fletcher, A.M.
8. Ditto
15. Ditto
22. Ditto
29. Ditto
May 6. Rev. John Blackburn.
13. Ditto
20. Ditto
27. Rev. H. F. Burder, A.M.
June 3. Ditto
10. Rev. W.B. Collyer, D.D. &c.
17. Rev. Joseph Fletcher, A.M.
24. Ditto
July 1. Ditto
8. Ditto
15. Rev. John Yockney.
22. Ditto
29. Rev. John Clayton, Jun. A.M.
Aug. 5. Rev. John Morison.
12. Ditto
19. Rev. F. A. Cox, A.M.
26. Ditto
Sept. 2. Rev. John Davies.
9. Ditto
16. Rev. Spedding Curven.
23. Ditto
30. Ditto

"Service begins *exactly* at a quarter after six o'clock, and ends at a quarter after seven *exactly*."

"This lecture was instituted in the year 1821, for the purpose of affording to *young* ninnies, whose employments necessarily preclude them from evening services, an opportunity of attending *public* worship during the

interval between the Sabbaths, and to raise the wind, for the disinterested Reverends above.

The *expences* are defraved by *collections* and *annual subscriptions* which will be thankfully received in the Vestry *after* each service, and by Mr. David Simpleton, 57, Bishopsgate Street Within. (*Cant.*)

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

THROUGH the Medium of your valuable work I beg leave to say, that I was pleased with the medical practice pursued in Holland. In a recent tour through that country, I observed with much attention the practice of physicians and surgeons, and was informed by a native that the following custom pas almost universally adopted by the inhabitants: it is usual for a family to pay a certain sum per annum to the physician or surgeon, agreeable to the circumstances of the individual. For instance, a respectable tradesman would pay 36 florins, equal to 3*l*. English money, per annum: this payment is regularly made, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly, as is agreeable, and collected by the assistant or clerk of the practitioner. They pay every attention to the patient when taken ill, and immediately prescribe; which prescription is taken to a chemist and druggist (who have all regularly taken up their degrees in the medical college). The price of medicine is moderate: in short, the physician will examine the charges, and report were they to over charge. The doctors are generally very respectable, and, as, in England, generally keep their carriages, with very few exceptions. If a person dóes not subscribe, the visit is generally one florin or one florin and a half each visit; but one florin is the usual fee expected, which is equal to 1s. 8d. Thus it is the interest of the doctor speedily to restore his patient to health, as his fees to a family subscribing are not increased should the whole family be indisposed; and there are few families, even of the labouring class, who do not subscribe; for the lower orders of persons generally belong to a club or society, and by paying a trivial sum, are supplied with medical assistance.

Now, Sir, contrast this with the practice of the physicians and surgeons in England:—even those who style themselves regular physicians, we too frequently find tampering with the lives of their best friends, for the purpose of making merchandize of it during a period of sickness, for the sake of gain. These, Sir, surely require comment, and are equally worthy of a situation in your work with contemptible quacks. I wish I could see the profession held in a more honourable point of view, but I fear nothing but the legislature could prevent very many from foregoing their usual practice.

Your obedient servant,

M. A.

London, 30th March, 1821.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I HAVE read your numbers from the beginning; but such have been the ideas fixed in my mind for many years past, respecting gentlemen of the faculty, that when I first saw them I could hardly believe they were wrote by a scientific gentleman: yet there are so many proofs, that my prejudice seemed to give way, though it was greatly strengthened by the following observations:

1. There are a great number of apothecaries who, I suppose, are very unfit to administer medicine, and may be considered little better than quacks.

2. There are those who are called doctors, who, I am inclined to think, know but little of what they ought to know: and, indeed, for a man to be a proficient in any science, he need have a natural talent or genius for the science he studies; without which, he may be comparable to a machine; and yet such a man may by industry be a very useful man.

3. Why so much secrecy in the practice?

I conceive, if men were dependent on their attainments acquired in the exercise of natural talent, such a gentleman would not be so sedulously occult in his profession; then the answer to my interrogatory is, 'Because men know so little.' These observations have made me very particular

who I apply to for medical advice. I highly esteem a man of science, and think such an one deserves all the remuneration that is just and liberal; but for an illiterate man to exact from 500 to 1000l. per cent. profit in his trade seems to me to be too much, and it is such men that occasioned an ancient poet to write thus:

Physicians of all men are the most happy;
For what good they do the world proclaimeth;
And what evil they do the earth covereth.

But now for the real quack. That is a man so ignorant, that he knows no more of the human frame or of medicine than a child of seven years of age; and yet he has the audacity, the cruelty, to administer what he calls medicine: and if he can gain on the credulity of society he will call himself doctor; and so he goes on till he acquires, it may be, a deal of property, that being the principal thing he has been and is in pursuit of. I suppose you will not think me very forward in my complaints concerning such pests of society, when I inform you, it is upwards of thirty years ago, one of those fellows, applied to by my wife, since dead, a most affectionate and anxious mother, for the cure of one of our children, between two and three years of age; and this man was to cure the child of weakness in its ancles by sweating. She was taken from her amusements, in good spirits, between one and two o'clock, by a nurse he sent, and at six the same afternoon, was a corpse under her hands. I have not heard of him, as I recollect, since, and suppose he is dead, but at that time he was a carpenter in Bunhill-row, but made a great noise as the sweating doctor: and the public had no open-hearted, generous medical adviser at that time, or he would have been handed up for public inspection, in all probability. Perhaps this may serve to convince of the need of legislative interference. But, added to the above, I have another case to record, though not in my own family. I have known a very worthy person for about twenty years, and at my first knowledge of him he was taken suddenly ill, and continued so about the usual time of a common fit of illness; at the conclusion of which, I remember he came out with one leg about two inches shorter than the other, and he had a high shoe made to suit his short leg, which as suddenly became its proper length. Since that he has been about twice every year taken suddenly ill, sometimes blind, or dumb, or lame, or all together, or his whole frame affected, and convulsed, so as to be obliged to be put to bed; and, in general, after having been more or less affected for some days, the disorder goes off, and he is able to attend to his business, and his very useful engagements in life; which has been thus embittered by a man who calls himself doctor, who administered his deleterious—falsely called—medicine, for the cure of disorders by worms, which he exposes to public view in Shoreditch and Long-acre.

Since writing the above, I have called on my friend, to know if he had no objection to my making this account public; and, instead of having any objection, he cordially approved of it, and added, if the "Medical Adviser" is desirous of any farther information from me, I am willing to give it him.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

W. N.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SEEING that you have done us the honour of recommending in your last number the *French medicine*, for which we are agents—*The Tonic and Digestive Wine*—we feel it our duty to return you our thanks, and in doing so, we beg to encroach a moment on your valuable time. You say, Sir, that the price is too dear, and recommend us to lower it. We should most gladly attend to any recommendation from you, Sir; but when we state, that deducting duty, bottles, expensive wine, and the more expensive medicines employed in the composition, we have scarcely an eighth profit; and when you think that the dose of this medicine avarages only tenpence, and that only every day, or, perhaps, second or third day, as the case may require, you will, I trust, not press us to lower

the price. An apothecaries' draught is one shilling and sixpence, which is taken in one dose, and often repeated six times a day: and surely, if this *tonic wine* will remove and prevent disease, and keep up health, at the small price of tenpence a-day, we submit, will there not be a vast saving, considering what might be otherwise put into the pocket of the apothecary? It is not so much as the price of a glass of punch per day However, Sir, we make this abatement, that in taking six doses, we charge but for five.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, and humble Servants,

D. W. WILLIAMS & Co.
Sole Agents.

55, Bow-lane, Cheapside.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

Permit me first to thank you for the invaluable advice contained in the last, and last but one, numbers of the MEDICAL ADVISER "on Indigestion." I have drank a bottle of the tonic wine, and nothing that I ever took appeared to do me so much good as it has done, it has acted upon me as it professes, exactly; but with yourself, I hope, the proprietor will lower the price, or I must cease to drink it regularly, which I should otherwise do, but the shallowness of my pocket will not allow of it. If however Messrs. Williams and Co. will not reduce the price of the wine, for the benefit of poor men like myself, you would perhaps be kind enough to tell us as near as possible how to make it, or a substitute for it.* I must purchase another bottle of it to morrow, which I hope will just last me till the publication of the next number for your valuable publication. Since I have taken the wine, I have felt my head clearer, and am altogether decidedly better. J. H.

Gracechurch-street, May 3, 1824.

* We recommend the writer of this letter, who cannot afford to pay so high for the tonic and digestive wine, to take it only every second and the intermediate days to take the following powder, which will come as near as possible to a substitute, and by which the expence is reduced to one half.

Five grains of aromatic powder.
Ten grains of rhubarb.
Three grains of powder of Columbo. Mix.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

How do you reconcile your theory of indigestion proceeding from a weakness of mind, when it is notorious that amongst dyspeptic persons may be classed the greatest geniuses, and the most eminent in all the arts and sciences, while every lumpish clown, who has scarcely a second idea in his head, is distinguished for health and bodily vigour, and whose powers of digestion must be proportionably perfect? Persons cannot become fat without a good digestion,—but fatness and folly are almost synonymous terms, and of this opinion Sterne seemed to be, in his story of Le Fevre, when he makes use of the expression "Foolish fat Scallion."

Amongst boys too, the most dull and stupid, generally enjoy robust health, while those of fine sensibility and quick apprehension, are not unfrequently of a puny and sickly constitution. Of this, numerous instances might be adduced, and that of Pope amongst the rest. Hence, it would appear, that the more vigorous the nerves act upon the stomach, the less assistance they give towards mental reflection, and that the powers of the mind and stomach are to one another in an inverse ratio. I am not acquainted with anatomy, and therefore cannot enter scientifically into the subject; but I have been some years in the world, and not an inattentive observer of mankind, and the result of my observation is, that I have generally found mental imbecility and poverty of thought, accompanied by a much greater degree of bodily health and vigour, than falls to the share of those of profound thinking, or splendid wit. As I have a great value for your scientific opinions, your insertion of this letter, with an answer to the points at issue, would oblige, Sir, your constant reader, EINION MON.

May 3, 1824.

*** We do not say that weakness of mind produces indigestion, but *weakness of the nerves appointed to supply the digestive organs with life.* In proportion to the activity of thought is the exhaustion upon the nerves. This is our theory.

The above letter serves to shew us that our opinions may be misunderstood by more than the writer, and therefore in our next number, we shall give a plate, and an article upon the subject.

To the Editors of the Medical Adviser.

GENTLEMEN,

FOR the first time, I saw this evening the letter of your correspondent W. R. in No. 18, of the Medical Adviser; in which he says, "he was led astray by the high character given of this pretender (quack Courtenay) in the European Magazine."

In justice to the proprietors and conductors of that long established magazine, who would scorn to lend themselves to puff any quack, I beg to inform you, and your correspondent, that the high character he alludes to will be found attached to an advertisement of Courtenay's Book, &c. on the cover of the "New European Magazine," a copy of which I send to convince you of the truth of this statement. Your correspondent has inadvertantly dropped the NEW, or has seen Courtenay's advertisement in some of the papers, in which he set forth the last paragraph of the accompanying advertisement as a recommendaton of his high character given by the "European Magazine," for I am informed, he invariable drops the term *new*, leading the public into the same error as your correspondent has fallen into.

I beg to assure you, that the advertisements of this quack, have in no one case even been admitted on the cover of the "European Magazine," of which fact I am fully competent to speak, from having printed it for a considerable time.

The conductors of that work are, I believe, ignorant of Courtenay's use of the name of their work or his recommendation, and equally so of this letter.—I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

Red-lion-passage, Holborn, April 30, 1824. } J. WARE.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

The Quacks.—M'Donald, the Kent-road quack, is "positively" going to commence an action against us for the injury he has sustained in his "professional" character. We never said that he was an indifferent cow-driver, nor a bad tailor, we merely talked of his medical pretensions, and surely there can be no injury sustained there, as he is not a doctor, but a most audacious and ignorant quack.

Sir Charles Aldis, too, is between a threat and a bow to us. He called on Monday last at our publishers to assure us that he is not a quack. Messrs. Knight and Lacey, who are, in truth, very kind-hearted gentlemen (for Publishers), listened most attentively to their visitor, and from them we hear that indeed he "is in the *habits* of taking tea with Dr. Blegborough, and of breakfasting with Dr. Uwins, and that he attends patients with Dr. Birkbeck;" in short, that he has no claims upon our quack's corner.

He stated that he was neither physician nor surgeon, but, says he, "*what I call a walking apothecary*," he never gave bills out, but indeed sometimes he offers *cards*. If this mock-knight, and mock-doctor, really does "take tea" with Dr. Blegborough, and breakfast with Dr. Uwins, and attend patients with Dr. Birkbeck, we are sorry *they* have not better taste.

The quack was very anxious to have the address of the gentleman who wrote to us about him, and we therefore intimate it to him, and wish to know if he has any objection.

Stealing the Dead.—In a town in the north of Germany, a house was lately erected for the reception of the dead (whose death was doubted) and an inscription put over the door.

"Mortis dubiæ Asylum."

The very first corpse, however, which was placed in the house, was stole by the resurrection men; upon which the next morning the following was found painted over the inscription:—

"Mortis dubium Asylum."—(*Courier.*)

Dead alive.—Two surgeons, of Nottingham, having pronounced a man dead, a coroner's inquest was summoned, and when the constable returned from the coroner to state all was ready, he found the *deceased*, an old fellow, walking about the room. It appeared that he had over-burthened

himself with three pounds of beef-steaks. A similar occurrence took place some time back at the London Hospital.

Roasted Grain. — Mr. Hunt has begun a new puff. He advertises to sell roasted corn at 4*d.* per pound, which brings many to his shops. When the customer demands it, a most inferior quality is pointed out of grain, and immediately recommended that at 1*s.* per pound. Now, for the benefit of our readers, we have again examined the process of preparing the grain sold by Mr. Facey of Whitechapel-road, and can declare that it is done in the best possible way, the grain itself of the most wholesome quality, and prepared in the premises attached to his shop; so that the purchaser has it fresh from the burner at 6*d.* per pound—half the price of Hunt's, and a better article.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. T. M——s, must tell us where to address him.

T. R. a constant reader, has not been properly attended to, but what he complains of is more a matter of inconvenience than danger. Let him apply strong spirits of vinegar for a week or two. If he writes again let him state more minutely the extent and the time.

The wife of S. T. of Cripplegate, has got varicose veins. She should wear a bandage, put on with equal and gentle pressure from the toes upwards to the extent of the swelling. Let her keep her bowels regular by cream of tartar and rhubarb occasionally.

Surdus's case may possibly be the result of bad treatment in venerea. Let him tell us the previous treatment received, his age, profession, and former state of health, with an address for a private opinion.

T. Z. The boy has got worms, not water on the brain.

An admirer of the "Medical Adviser" will find benefit in warm bathing and bandages.

HERPES is *not* Herpes, but an eruption on the skin from indigestion. Let him follow our advice given in the last two numbers, under the head of Dyspepsia.

We cannot inform "an Inquirer," whether Eady the quack is one of the madmen who escaped from St. Luke's, but we think it is very likely.

O. S. We sympathize with him very much, and hope that the authors of his misfortune, may soon meet their desert. He is not the first victim of Jordan. He will find a letter at our publishers.

PHILANTHROPOS, is informed that we have had a plan somewhat like his in contemplation a considerable time.

OMEGA should lose a little blood. Ten ounces.

A. Q. of Sheffield is dying from the effects of his trade, let him desist.

AMELIA must get married, if possible, she will do very well, but let her read no romances, nor Lord Byron, nor Tom Moore, but become a plain matter of fact girl, and she will recover. She will find a letter at the Post Office, Bath.

HOMO—EDWARD of Birmingham—T. L. O.—SUPERSTITION—and A. will find letters as desired.

We shall make use of the medical books which have been sent in due time.

Many favours have been received, for which we thank our correspondents. Some will appear.

Communications (Post Paid) to be sent to the Editor, at the Publishers. London: published by JOHN KNIGHT and HENRY LACEY, Paternoster Row. Sold also by JOHN SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh; M. OGLE, Glasgow and — WEBB, Dublin.

Shackell and Arrowsmith, John on's Court, Fleet-street, London.

THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, MD.

No. 24.] SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1824. [Price 3d.



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SETON.

Our plate of this number represents the introduction of a needle into the neck, to establish a seton. This needle contains a skein of white silk, which is to be introduced into the wound made by the needle, and retained there so as to irritate the parts, thus curing diseases of the eyes, head, &c. by counter irritation. The silk is to be pulled a little farther through the wound every day, and that part of it which is withdrawn from the wound cut off.

SABDONIC LAUGH.

This is a convulsive disease, arising from violent grief, joy, or great depression of mind: as yet we have no specific mode of treating it; but upon the evidence which we have ourselves seen of the good effects of opium in removing lock-jaw, a disease we think in a great measure allied to it, we think that large doses of that medicine must, in general, succeed in cutting it short. We would recommend a drachm of the tincture of opium every six hours, and if that dose does not produce quiet, double that quantity. We have seen six drachms of that medicine given in lock-jaw with the best effects.

The fit comes on suddenly, the patient laughs immoderately, which continues often three or four days together, when it either goes off as suddenly as it came on, or proves fatal. Antispasmodics, as they are called, such as camphor, castor, or asafœtida, musk and ether, are the prescriptions usually resorted to, but we think they are all useless.

CHICKEN POCK.

This disease, like small pock, is contagious, and generally affects a person only once in life.

The symptoms sometimes are feverish heat, and chilliness, with pains in the back, thirst, head-ache, and quick pulse; and at other times no fever is apparent. On the second or third day the pustules come out upon the skin, filled with watery fluid, and about the fifth or sixth they dry away.

The chicken and small pock differ in this, namely, that fever precedes the latter, which lasts a uniform time, while in the former, if fever attend at all, it is irregular; they also may be distinguished from each other by the pustules of chicken pock never turning to purulent fluid, while in small pock they always do; and also by the pustules of the former flattening and going away about the fifth day; when in the latter they are scarcely at their height. These distinctions should be carefully attended to, as the diseases, may sometimes be mistaken one for the other.

The treatment should be cool, and spare regimen; giving the following powders the first and second day.

Of cream of tartar, two drachms.
Of jalap, one drachm. Mix and divide into six parts.

One to be taken every two hours the first day until the bowels are free; and in the second and third day one every four hours. Whey and lemonade may be given freely.

The disease is not at all dangerous.

STUFFING STOMACHS AT BOARDING SCHOOLS.

We are not now going to comment at length upon the practice of stuffing children with potatoes, dough boys, and cabbage in the various advertising cheap boarding schools, but merely to request our readers, who may be acquainted with the particulars of such practices, to transmit us a word or two, *(authentic)* upon the subject, in order that our present stock of information may be rendered more complete before we shew them up.

The Aphorisms of Hippocrates, *with the Comments of* James Cook, *of Warwick, Practitioner in Physic and Chirurgery: written in the year* 1693. *Also the* Editor's *Comments on both.*

Hippocrates is said to be the father of physic, and admitted to have been a good physician; the best of his day, or of centuries after, even up to 1693, when James Cook commented upon him, and perhaps we might say, half a century later. By giving our readers the aphorisms of Hippocrates with Cook's comments and our own, we shall shew the state of medical knowledge in former times, contrasted with the present.

OF LIFE.

1. Hip. Life is short, art long, occasion sudden, experience dangerous, judgment difficult; neither is it sufficient the physician do his office, unless the patient and his attendants do their duty; and that outward things be as well ordered, as those which are given inwardly.

Cook. This is as the preme to the

rest, being by so many arguments, as there are expressions, pressed to be diligent in study, exquisite and cautious in practice; life at length being but a shadow; its brevity occasioned by many accidents outward and inward. Art is long, if theory and practice are considered; diseases sudden, and if not suddenly removed, may quickly ruin. Experiences are many times fallible, not answering expectation. Difficulty of judgment arising not only from the variety of diseases, their causes, and the body; but in that there are many things hidden, and that fall out by the fault of the sick and attendants. In the physician is required exquisite knowledge, great virtue, authority, and success almost divine. The sick is to be patient and obedient: apothecaries and nurses diligent, exact and cheerful; and air, linen, diet, coverings, bed, &c. convenient.

Ed. This aphorism and comment are very good, and might be written by any non-philosopher.

OF CONSTANT USE.

2. Hip. Things accustomed to, a long time, although worse, are usually less grievous than those to which we are not used; therefore a sudden change is not to be made to unaccustomed things.

Cook. Custom in diet, &c. is not to be rashly, but gradually changed, being a second nature, lest danger be produced.

Ed. A bad general rule—all bad habits cannot be suddenly changed, but there are many which can and ought to be.

3. Hip. Much and sudden evacuation, repletion, heating or cooling, or any of them which rashly move the body, is dangerous: for every excess is an enemy to nature, but that done by degrees is safe; as also in other things wherein you change from one thing to another.

Cook. Nature cannot bear sudden changes; as suddenly to change from a full to a spare or exact diet; therefore diminish moderately, till you come to such a proportion as offends not the body, or functions of the mind. So too much evacuation by bleeding, medicines, &c. is hurtful.

Ed. This is the antipodes to physiological reasoning, and to present practice in active disease; for in fever sudden immersions in cold water is used with success in all violent inflammations; in hernia extensive bleedings, and in many chronic diseases, cathartics sudden and strong in their action, are found most efficacious. All modern writers agree in this point. It is clearly demonstrated.

4. Hip. Those accustomed to daily labour, although weak or old, do more easily endure accustomed exercises, than those not accustomed to them, though strong and young.

Cook. It instructs, that we should not above reason impose upon the sick or well, such aliments, exercises, &c. to which they have not been accustomed; do nothing rashly, but catch a flea.

Ed. This is well enough when not in the extreme sense—use is second nature.

5. Hip. In all exercises of the body (immoderate) when wearied, rest doth mitigate it.

Cook. Rest is a remedy for laborious exercise; too liberal a dinner is cured by a spare supper. In a word, here contraries cure contraries.

Ed. Rest certainly restores exhausted strength, but immoderate exercise often is followed by restlessness.

6. Hip. Weariness without cause, argues future diseases.

Cook. Such weariness as comes without immoderate exercise; for if from it, it may cause diseases; as also from that arising from ill habit, *plethora;* and both together are the causes almost of all diseases.

Ed. There is no weariness without cause. Here Hippocrates is obscure, and Cook absurd.

7. Hip. The full habit and state of the body of wrestlers, if it come to the highest degree of fulness, is dangerous; for it cannot continue and remain in the same state: and when it cannot so remain and grow into a better state, it must needs grow worse; therefore the full habit must speedily be dissolved, to the end it may take a beginning of new nourishment. Neither must we proceed so far, that their

vessels be quite empty (for that is dangerous) but we must proceed so far as nature will bear and tolerate; for as extreme evacuations, so the like repletions are dangerous.

Cook. This shews when, and what quality of blood is to be removed, wherein we are to consider the habit, &c.

Ed. This is pitiable theory, and the comment is nonsense. The habit of a wrestler in full strength we should think required neither Hippocrates, Cook, nor the "Medical Adviser."

8. Hip. Those very gross by nature, sooner die than lean.

Cook. By this is discovered what habits and natures are easier, or more difficultly cured; for those gross, as they are most easily affected, so they are more hardly cured. We are to understand grossness from first conformation, not from diet but native coldness.

Ed. This is a true aphorism.

9. Hip. In what part of the body there is a sweat, there is the disease.

Cook. Sweat shews the part affected. Those are symptomatical sweats, whether in head or breast, from abundance of matter, and debility of the retentive faculty; in these parts sticks the diseased matter: therefore in such cases beware lest purging and bleeding be prescribed; the matter being crude, and part weak.

Ed. This is generally speaking admissible, but the commentator who adds his advice, is like a monkey mending a man's work. When partial perspiration takes place from inflammation, bleeding and purging *must* be resorted to.

10. Hip. Whatsoever part of the body is possessed with heat and cold, there is the disease.

Cook. As if there be unequal heat in the sides, and burning heat in the breast without a fever, there is the disease: these are to be in excess, and not proceeding from external causes; and then it shews distemper contrary to health, where the matter of the diseases is settled, which may be removed by fomentations, bleedings, cups, cauteries, &c. and not always by physic.

Ed. Obscurity itself.

11. Hip. What part of the body soever is diseased, and the hurt of it is not at all perceived, their understanding is affected.

Cook. That is, if any sickness or sore be in any sensible parts that cause pain, and they feel it not, because it argues the greatness of the cause.

Ed. This is a useless aphorism, and the comment of Cook is nonsense. If pain *is*, it *must* be felt. We would rather say, that mad people sometimes are *apparently* regardless of pain, although they may feel it.

12. Hip. They are not so dangerously sick, to whose nature, age, habit, or season, the disease is familiar and agreeable, as those to whom the disease is disagreeable to those things.

Cook. That is, they are more easily cured when there is such a concurrence of the disease, nature, age, &c. than in others in whom they disagree. *E. G.* Acute fevers are not agreeable to old age, or cold nature, season, &c.

Ed. Agreeable disease! the aphorism means that the patient accustomed to attacks of a certain disease is not in so dangerous a predicament as a sudden and unexpected malady. Even that will not bear reasoning throughout.

13. Hip. It is better in any disease, that the parts adjoining to the navel and the nethermost belly, be somewhat thicker and gross; for the extenuation of them is ill, and then it is not safe to give purges working downward.

Cook. It signifies the bowels well affected, therefore native heat being more strong, the frame of nature more able to concoct, distribute and cast out, it is meant of the whole belly, which the physician is to handle diligently, and see whether it be right.

Ed. This is founded on no principle.

14. Hip. Predictions of acute diseases are not altogether indubitable, whether as to death or health.

Cook. Acute diseases are not rashly to be judged, although they seldom fail in their event, and have their proper crisis, by reason of their sudden changes; yet may they be judged in fourteen days.

Ed. This is true, and in the time of Hippocrates no doubt it was lamentably so.

15. Hip. When alterations happen to the whole body, and it is sometimes hot and sometimes cold, or one colour ariseth upon another, it signifies the continuance of the disease.

Cook. For by these vicissitudes it appears that various humours abound in the body, which cause various dispositions, and nature calls for much time to free herself from them; therefore be not rash in evacuation, but wait for concoction.

Ed. True enough, every unhealthy symptom must be that of disease.—(Concoction!!)

16. Hip. Some diseases are betteror worse; some more to one age, some to another: so also they are according to place, season and manner of diet.

Cook. This is to be understood of all manner of epidemical diseases which change according to season, age, which have also several diseases; as the aged is recreated in summer, but benumbed in winter, and so diseases are begot more at one time of the year than the other. &c.

Ed. True again.

17. Hip. Persons strangled lying in a swoon, yet not dead, cannot be recovered if they foam at the mouth.

Cook. This is meant of those choaked, whether by hanging, drowning, troublesome quinsy, or apoplexy; for in those it signifies the last strugglings of nature, the vapours by strength being sent up are mixed with the proper humidity of the lungs.

Ed. We have seen an instance of direct contradiction to this.

18. Hip. We must not pass forthwith from one medicine to another, although things fall not so well out as they should, to him who doth proceed by good reason, if so be that remain still and continue, which seemed to him to be so from the beginning.

Cook. We are to be careful in changing medicines, although they do not at present answer expectation.

Ed. This is a good aphorism, with a wise and prudent practitioner: for some are so hasty as to run through half the pharmacopœia in a few days.

19. Hip. To extreme diseases, extreme and exquisite remedies are best.

Cook. Those are called extreme which are most acute; here diet is to be moist, thin, and physick exquisite.

Ed. This is "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

To cure Sore Throat.

A toast soaked in vinegar, bound round the throat.

If applied warm, we think it a tolerably good remedy, but flannel rolled into several folds is better.

Ink to a recent Burn.

A clammy and dirty remedy—the copperas the ink contains acts as an astringent, and in slight cases may do good; but 1½ drachm of sulphate of zinc in four ounces of water, is a better application.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A mild alterative powder for dyspeptic habits.

Of jalap, one drachm.
Of cream of tartar, two drachms.
Of aromatic powder, half a drachm.

Divide into six parts—one every day or two.

A simple Sweating Powder.

Four grains of antimonial powder.
One grain of calomel.
Ten of white sugar.—To be taken at bed time with a hot drink of whey.

Continued from works by Dr. Adam Dodds, *of Worcester, entitled the Physician's Guide.*

"A dislike to a loss of blood generally prevails among aged people, and this prejudice is imprudently sanctioned by inexperienced physicians. The feebleness, coldness of the extremity, indigestion, &c. concomitant on old age are frequently the consequence of an overloaded state of the blood-vessels compressing the brain, &c. and in such cases, the loss of blood, removing a mechanical cause, is almost an immediate acquisition of strength, and the patient expressing his genuine feelings remarks, that a

weight has been taken off the springs of life. The circulation becomes more free, and the heat of the body is increased. Of the preventive and curative remedies, the most efficacious are cathartics and blood-letting, and the truth of this, every aged person of a full habit, who has experienced their effects, will allow. Blood-letting, however, requires to be skilfully directed, because if the system be not overloaded with blood, it may bring on a dangerous degree of weakness. In returning to the first assertion, that diseases, and not the mere exhaustion of age, are the ordinary causes of death in elderly people, it might be advantageous to recapitulate those of the most fatal tendency, the seeming origin of them, and the remedies which medical skill has discovered for their prevention and cure. Apoplexy, palsy, or inflammation of the chest, arising decidedly from repletion, require vigorous bleedings, strong cathartics, and abstinence. The same disorders, when produced by intemperance or injurious diet, require evacuants and correctives. Erysipelas, carbuncle, or gangrenous inflammation, arising from surfeit in the stomach, or from foulness in the bowels, must be treated according to their ascertained causes. Arthritic or gouty complaints, which are aggravated and maintained by improper diet, can be remedied only by adapting a diet that is exact and appropriate. At the same time the great excretory outlets of the body, the bowels of the urinary passages, with all their connections, must be invariably watched; and when interrupted, they must be timely aided by art. While I desire to rouse the attention of my fellow practitioners to those momentous but too much neglected cares and duties, I venture to solicit the confidence of the elders of our race, and their friends, toward the medical profession, with the full assurance that the faculty now possess the means to prolong life, and alleviate suffering, under many of the events of old age.

"*The mortality among the young of the human species* might appear to prevail to an *unaccountable* degree were it not clear that many of their maladies arise from mismanagement; and even when a disease communicated by contagion, terminates fatally, it may always be traced either to an unhealthy constitution, from the same cause, or to unappropriate medical treatment. Some people are of opinion that the disorders of children are simple, and may be treated by almost any one; but surely in this they are greatly mistaken, for the fact is, they are, for the most part, acute. There are others who imagine that little can be done for their complaints, but as to this, having for some years practised in the different branches of the profession, and thereby having had extensive opportunities of closely investigating and narrowly watching them from the hour of their birth, I can assert positively that a great deal of good might be done for them, and that by appropriate treatment at the beginning most of their diseases may not only be relieved, but actually removed. But they too often obtain a dangerous ascendancy from their approaches not being early recognized, when a judicious treatment will prevent serious mischief. It is therefore the duty of every honest man strenuously to oppose the present erroneous system, in whatever shape or form it may appear; and Lord Bacon very justly observes "that medicine not founded on philosophy is a fallacious and dangerous art." It is a great error to consider the medical education of a practitioner completed when he commences practice; he should continue to watch diseases and the effects of medicine with as much attention when he is his own master as when he was a pupil; and therefore I apprehend that one great source of fatality among infants and children, particularly in England, may be traced to what his Lordship might have denominated the unphilosophical monopoly system. The juvenile physician, as soon as he has finished his terms, or number of years prescribed for his residing at some University, and without a practical knowledge of diseases, commences a new career by entering into a combination with the apothecaries, surgeon-apothecaries, and also even with the surgeons, to

monopolize the practice of medicine, by binding themselves by a *bond* of faith and good fellowship to practice on certain defined conditions, and for that purpose strongly recommend each other! It may indeed with truth be said, that wherever such a system exists medicine must be at a very low ebb. The physician takes the lead, no matter how little his experience, and is to guide and direct, no matter whether he ever saw the disease in all or scarcely any of its different stages, the practice of the surgeons and the apothecaries, by whom he is extolled, for obvious reasons which may hereafter be fully enlarged upon, as a most able practitioner. The patient who consults him goes to the fountain head, and all that art can accomplish will be done for him, is the general cry of the servile partners. The physician, who soon becomes a fashionable prescriber, of course recommends his friends in similar terms, one good turn deserving another! This medico sympathy, however, is not only a very effectual method of foisting inexperienced physicians upon the public, but of keeping them in a state of ignorance respecting the nature of infantile diseases and the sources of their various combinations. Their opportunities of fully and accurately investigating them in their rise, progress, changes, connections, &c. is by far too much abridged; from defect of ocular demonstration, they cannot discriminate their several different stages; they mistake one for another; hence the many crude and contemptible theories which issue from them on these matters; also the great diversity of sentiment which exists among authors respecting the treatment. The public should therefore be aware of the consequences of encouraging and supporting such mecical combinations. They may impose silence upon unenlightened reasoners, or strike others with awe and submission; but that they are calculated to benefit mankind, or for the dignity and promotion of medical science, I positively deny. Very many of the faculty not only see the error, but acknowledge that they are heartily tired and disgusted with *their trading* concern; but they are fearful to speak out, and experience it to be most to their own advantage to take the world as they find it. This fear, however, I am happy to say, is fortunately not the case with all.

"Blood-letting in inflammations of the lungs or of the head of children is often imperiously called for, and as much may be safely attempted in the first stages, the practitioner is highly culpable, who neglects to avail himself of every favourable occasion which they offer; but I am aware it is often employed with the most vague notions respecting its necessity, especially in those infantile affections, which at once implicate the lungs, the head, and the first passages. The latter of those require assiduous watching, and, whilst it is of the utmost moment at times to unload the blood-vessels, and to act powerfully upon the intestinal canal, much circumspection is requisite that bleeding be not carried beyond a certain point, lest we induce an irrecoverable condition of both topical and general debility, and thus bring on the very effusion and disorganization, which it is the object of practice to obviate. But the difference of opinion which prevails on the subject of *general* blood-letting in the acute affections of young children, is very great, some recommending and others censuring the measure. In this, as in all medical controversies, we must attempt to separate our prejudices and partialities from those established principles which an unbiassed experience has instituted. General bleeding, Sydenham asserts, may be as safely employed in young children as in adult persons; and he proves its efficacy in those by having used it successfully in peripneumonic fever, in convulsions from dentition, and in severe cases of hooping-cough. On the whole, however, though the depletory practice has supported its ground with some practitioners since the time of that illustrious physician, many have abandoned general for topical blood-letting in very young children; and the change is not confined to any particular disease, but has been extended to most of the acute complaints of such subjects.

We might naturally imagine, that this change, sanctioned as it appears by numerous authorities, was a substantial improvement; notwithstanding, perhaps a candid enquiry would prove, that if bleeding was too much neglected by the older writers, the modern have committed an analogous error relative to general blood-letting in young children: and I have no doubt but it will be found and acknowledged, that in some cases general is better than local bleeding, and *vice versa*, whilst again an union of both may be best. In every acute seizure of visceral inflammation of young children, in the first instance general should be preferred to topical bleeding, for the impression it makes is greater on the universal excitement, and on the local affection; but in the less urgent attacks of disorder, where there seems to be rather augmented determination to, than actual inflammation in an internal part, possibly local extraction of blood is superior. Moreover, as in young children of a delicate habit the latter may be preferable, so in those that are robust, the former has the most decided advantage; and both may frequently be recoursed to with exeellent effect, where the violence of the symptoms denote the vital necessity of instantaneous relief. An expert surgeon will scarcely ever be baffled in bleeding young children; beeause if a vein cannot be sufficiently diseovered at the bend of the arm, or at the back of the hand, a branch of the temporal artery, or the external jugular vein, may readily be opened, more particularly the latter; and indeed the external jugular is often by far the best place to bleed children, when we wish to free a vital organ from repletion by a speedy detraction of blood. If the operator can secure the external jugular vein from rolling, he may at once penetrate it through the integuments, or the integuments lying directly over the vein may be first drawn up between the fingers, and then cut transversely, the better to expose this vessel; after which it should be pierced longitudinally, at the same time pressing the vein with the thumb a little below the opening. When an efficient portion of blood has been drawn, the vein must be carefully secured, and often examined afterwards, especially if the child be restless; because owing to an omission of such precautions, it sometimes bleeds again very profusely and dangerously, particularly when children are neglected in the night. A professional gentleman bled a child, that laboured under the croup, from the external jugular vein; and afterwards the difficulty of breathing continued so great as to force the blood out repeatedly from the orifice, though compresses had been attentively applied. At last he passed a very fine needle through the incision, which he closed with the twisted suture, after the manner that the veins of some of the inferior animals are secured. This answered the purpose perfectly. The child, however, had previously lost an excessive quantity of blood, but it ultimately recovered. In opening the external jugular vein in children, we should never cut the vessel aeross, as this would perpetually expose them to the risk of hemorrhage, but this will seldom be the case if it be divided longitudinally.

"It now becomes a natural and important question, how mnch blood should be taken away in the inflammatory disorders of young children? To impose a rule correctly applieable to every case is impossible. At the eompletion of the first year, three ounees may be reekoned a moderate bleeding, four ounces at that of the second year, and five at that of the third; but a child who has passed his fourth year, and has been tolerably healthy before, will bear general bleeding mueh better than prior to that period. Some practitioners draw blood mueh more copiously than above mentioned in the inflammatory affections of young children; and on some few occasions, when the symptoms have been excessively violent, I have myself gone considerably farther with benefit. It is absolutely one of the nicest points in the practice of medicine, to bleed young children judiciously when attacked with inflammation of the viseera; because if we stop too short, the inflammation goes on and destroys them; whereas if we advance too far, the

excess of depletion is destructive, though the inflammation may be subdued by it.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I FEEL myself disappointed, inasmuch as I intended by the promulgation of an absurd remedy for the cure of sore nipples, which I accidentally heard of in my own practice, to draw from your valuable publication some observations on popular remedies in general, a subject full of interest and curiosity. Thousands of such recipes are to be met with, and must be familiar to most practitioners. You, Sir, must be aware that the very existence of the race of men you are so laudably, though perhaps fruitlessly, endeavouring to extirpate, depends upon the indemonstrable nature of the medical art. The maxim "post hoc, ergo propter hoc," though a very unscientific mode of reasoning, comes very frequently in aid of the pretensions of the quacks, and when a cure follows, what man shall be bold enough to say, a given recipe has not effected a given purpose; or, if he said so, who would believe him. How frequently is a practitioner met by this exclamation from his patients? Oh, Sir, ever since taking this medicine, I have been in so much pain; or, since applying such poultice, my leg has been worse; though the surgeon is aware that it is absolutely impossible either the one or the other could have produced such an effect, and, *vice versa;* from the impossibility of demonstrating with precision to what particular circumstance cures are ascribable in the great majority of cases, the art of healing is essentially empirical, even at the present day, in spite of the labours of the great men whose names do honour to human nature; hence the great variety of salves and potions in daily use, which philosophy would teach us to reject as useless or absurd, but which nevertheless obtain credit, and from which even the scientific practitioner finds it difficult to withhold his approbation. Until patients can be brought to reason upon their own cures, aided by the light of science, it appears to me impossible, that quackery in some shape or other should not obtain, and where is a man's reason likely to be so little unclouded as when under the influence of pain and disease; is it not notorious that the physician himself, when visited by disease, has so little confidence in his own powers, that he immediately surrenders his judgment to another, as if conscious of his unfitness, under the circumstances, to manage himself. How much more then must this feeling be present in the uninitiated; it is then that a man becomes the easy prey of the designing empiric, and even the honest practitioner finds it difficult to avoid falling into the errors he condemns. I would put it to the candour of every practitioner in physic to say whether he has not more than once been told that he saved the life of his patient, and many other such things, when upon retiring within himself, and reasoning calmly on the subject, he has found it somewhat difficult to settle matters with his conscience, and, on the other hand, that he has been frequently blamed when he has deserved it as little. These considerations should lead us to pursue with steadiness the paths of reason and science, regardless of the opinions of the world, though not indifferent to praise where we can honestly appropriate it. I am of opinion that works such as yours, by familiarizing medical science, and reducing it to the level of ordinary capacities, exciting interest by their novelty, and not fatiguing by their length, may promote a spirit of enquiry, and thereby tend very much to the improvement of the healing art, you therefore have my hearty good wishes for your ultimate success. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant, G. M.

Wandsworth, May 6, 1824.

ANNALS OF QUACKERY

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

SINCE the appearance of your weekly publication, I have been at times highly amused with its contents, and shall from time to time give you some authentic accounts of the quacks resident in my own neighbourhood, merely for the purpose of warning the

poor from their artifices, and to shame the opulent for encouraging such depredators. I shall in this letter give you a brief account of the whole, and at some future time send you some cases that are lasting monuments of their impudence and ignorance. I dwell in the town of Ashton-under-Lyne, and although not one of the largest towns, yet it stands superior to any other for the number of quacks it contains. They are as follows:—

No. 1. T. Thomson. This ignorant brute, for he cannot be classed among christians, has at one time but very narrowly escaped from the fingers of justice, for administering mercury in a pure state to a young woman to such a degree as caused death. The case was hushed up, and nothing said about such monstrous barbarity. Over this quack's door, is a board 5 feet by 1¾, containing the following:

T. Thompson can cure Gout, Rheumatism, Palsy, and Scrofula.

The rubbing bottles with which he cures the above diseases, as he pretends, contains acid sulph. to a certainty. He strips his patients naked before the fire, and rubs them unmercifully; and as may be expected, the skin is perfectly destroyed. Alas! alas! to what villains are the public exposed.

No. 2. Betty Travis, more commonly Bet. Rum. The public has been gulled by this old wretch for the last forty years. A whole length portrait of her would be an elegant frontispiece for one of your numbers. The poor cripples that owe their misfortunes to this woman, are like the dead at the day of judgement, not to be counted; specimens of which you shall have the first opportunity. Over this woman's door is the following:

Betty Travis, Surgeon, Blacking and Shute Maker.

The word *shute* is intended for burial suit maker. Who can look on this sign and afterwards put trust in her? If ever my time will allow, you shall have a full length sketch of this beautiful dame.

No. 3. Betty Bivvin. This is about the same age and appearance as Betty Travis, but rather the better of the two. Forty years has she been dabbling in the killing trade. I have some excellent cases for your magazine of this old cheat.

No. 4. Is a man formerly a weaver, now Dr. John. This is not his proper name: John is his first name, and he has added Dr. to it, and left the latter behind the scenes for a very good reason. This fellow has one good property, viz. If he does any serious mischief, not all the force of art or man can induce him to go to the same place again. You shall have a case or two of his.

No. 5. Dr. Harrop—Harrop, Surgeon and Man-midwife. At what place this fellow received his diploma is easily known. (Stop, Mr. Editor, and you shall know.) Next door to the hearse-house, near the Parish Church yard of Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. This is a fact, Mr. Editor, now this fellow is an old crony of the Dr. John's above mentioned; and I am sorry to say, Mr. Editor, that many respectable persons, that ought to know better, employ him. These some day will find a broken constitution through the effects of injurious medicines.

No. 6. Dr. Booth and Co. The Co. means his wife. This fellow has practised a number of years, and has even got some respectables among them. He was ½ half stable-boy and half apprentice to Mr. Cocks, Scotland-street, Ashton-under-Lyme; and all the diploma he has got is a broken indenture, for the fee that should have been paid was served out honourably in Lancaster castle by his mother. His wife *draws teeth* and lays women, as Dr. B. is troubled with the gout, and cannot always go out when called.—I beg pardon, Mr. Editor, when I wrote *draws teeth*, I meant *breaks teeth*, as she never draws three but she breaks two. This is a fact, which if denied, shall be proved to the Co's. disgrace.

No. 7. is a man that came to this town a few years ago, with only one coat, which ought to have paid taxes, for it had plenty of window-lights in it, and after he had lain in obscurity a little while, he started of a sudden, *Dr. Campbell, Surgeon, &c.* Now he rides occasionally two horses, and has a pretty good business, but is ra-

ther on the decline through hard drinking, bullying, and swaggering. If he is a member to any college, let him fairly and publicly state it, and if he is, so much the worse for him, cases *can be* brought forward, that would disgrace a ploughman that never saw rhubarb in his life. Let him answer this, or he shall soon hear from me again.—There is no public so credulous as the public of Ashton-under-Lyne.

No. 8. Aaron Howard, one of the most horrid description. What for filth, and saliva impregnated with tobacco, a person of common decency cannot come near him, yet he practises physic very expertly, and every one in the same neighbourhood knows well how daring he is in that abominable crime, bringing on miscarriage. He is the friend of private ladies and factory girls. His wife, though always drunk, prescribes in his absence.

No. 9. Phœbe Holt. This woman's husband is now dead: he was a farrier, and pretended to set limbs; but alas! Mr. Editor, did you but see what I see every day, from this man's ignorance, every column in your valuable magazine would be filled against him. Yet his wife, instead of praying for the evils he committed, continues the same abominable practice. My paper is spent; but if this finds a place in your great undertaking, another more interesting shall soon be sent to you.

Yours,
CATHARTIC.

Correspondence of Felix Tibb's.

LETTER I.

SIR,

MY name is Felix Tibbs; I am forty-eight years of age; I live at No. 16, Addle Hill, Doctor's Commons; I am married, and have three children; moreover, I am the person whose shins were scraped to bring down their awkward and unseemly out-bending, and who Sir Astley Cooper mentioned lately in his lectures, for which I shall not forgive him in a hurry.

This introduction will save a world of words hereafter; as, now you and I may be said to be acquainted, at least, just as much so as one half of those we call acquaintances.

My object in addressing you is, that you may set forth to the world, such a case of complicated disease and human affliction, as never was set forth before by any mortal, or in any country on the face of the globe, as well as point out to your readers the consequence of consulting advertising doctors; for there has not been a quack in England these twenty years that I have not applied to, and I am now a very *list of contents* to the *whole practice of physic.* They call me *the walking hospital,* Sir, and tell me I should let myself out to the pupils of St. Thomas's, *as a complete surgical chart.* But I must proceed to my memoir.

I believe I may quote precedent for commencing it before my birth. How I became acquainted with my history *ante natis* may be gathered from an old saying, "little pitchers have great ears." My mother, heaven bless her memory! would when I was a little boy, often wile away the evening hour in harmless gossip with a neighbouring visitor, recounting all that appertained to the wondrous story of my birth, these conversations were imprinted in my mind, by which I learned that my progenitors had been some years married, without having fulfilled the first command, and although they had read and studied Monsieur Quillet's "*Callipædia, over and over again,*" year succeeded year without the much wished blessing, and they almost despaired of ever being entitled to the endearing and honourable character of parent. In vain they had recourse to the various nostrums recommended as *amoris stimuli,* "steel pills, anti-phrodisiac girdles," &c. &c. Just at this time, a Scotchman of the name of Graham was delivering lectures, practising and recommending earth bathing at the Temple of Health in the Adelphi, and with the assistance of a beauty of no doubtful character, (aferwards the quondam lady of *Nelson* notoriety,) and half-a-dozen tall Irishmen, he contrived to amuse and dupe the credulous, promised his disciples extended duration of years, so that a man should be considered in his prime at a century old, and that the succeeding generation should be beautiful as an-

gels of light; he had moreover a bed and bedstead of peculiar construction, and extraordinary *(pretended)* virtues, which he termed the celestial bed; (a *terrestrial* bath and a *celestial* bed, what a transition!) This bed, as I have heard it described, was really a curious piece of machinery, combining electricity, music, &c. to gratify and impose upon the senses; formed of the most splendid materials, the pillars curiously fashioned of glass, revolving round, sparkling with apparently precious gems, each throwing out coruscations of light, yielding aromatic odours, whilst strains of the most delightful music fell upon the ears of its ravished residents; this was the *ne plus ultra* of the doctor's art, and a large sum of money was the fee, or rent of this bed of bliss: thither resorted those who had long been disappointed of that boon so naturally desired by married folks, and thither resorted those to whom I am indebted for my being. It is not for me to decide how much the world (in my person) is indebted to the virtues of this celestial piece of mechanism; but so it happened, in due time, the Tibbs's family was increased by the presence of your humble servant, and the only association that I can venture to trace between the musical bed and myself, is that I have had an unceasing singing in my head ever since the first dawn of memory—It is very well to have music in one's soul, but when we have music in the head, it is quite unbearable.

From the supposed success of my parents' visit to this celestial sinner, alas! they became infected with a sort of *cocœthes quackibus*; you might as well have endeavoured to disturb their faith in dreams, ghosts, witches, and omens, (which all good Christians do implicitly believe in,) as in Wesley's Primitive Physic, Culpepper's Herbal, Dr. Graham's Body of Animal Magnetism, Perkin's Metallic Tractors, and all the hosts of quacks and quackery then in practice; and this belief (notwithstanding some failures,) although a good deal shaken by some hints in your publication is not quite eradicated in me, their only child and representative. Their anxiety for the preservation of my health and beauty, has been my dire misfortune: had they been as leprous as Gehazi, or the Tibbses from the conquest been infected with that disease, which nothing but the touch of a hand that wields a sceptre is said to cure, I had not been more indebted to them for sufferings, than I am to their overwhelming fondness; happy was my mother, and happy too my sire, (whose name was Zachariah Tibbs) when I was born; and in due time I received at the baptismal font, the name of *Felix!* (Oh! term perverted.) Had they named me after my father, I had not complained; had they called me Jeremiah I had not lamented, nay Job I could have had *patience* with; but Felix—ah, me, *infelix* "*Felix*" *ego!* I have been told I was the picture of both my father and mother, (but what child is not) handsome to look upon and well formed, (barring my scimeter shins) alas, how changed.

In adult affliction, it is some consolation to reflect, that providence has wisely ordained that age recollects not the distresses of infancy, the two first years of my life past not without their full share of ills—the thrush, chicken pox, home ditto; convulsions, gripes, measles, hooping cough, teething, with a dozen *et ceteras* following each other in rapid succession; syrups, salts, emetics, lotions, potions, pills, plasters, leeches, embrocations, fomentations, cordial carminatives, were administered *seriatim*, as the neighbouring gossips each vouched for the infallibity of their respective recommendations. I must originally have been as invulnerable within, as was the son of Thetis without, or I had never borne up against such a host of diseases, joined to and perhaps occasioned by their concomitant polyremedial antidotes, I overcame them, however, and in the end, had I fallen, it might have been inscribed to my memory as to Leonidas of old, at the pass of Thermopylæ, "he fell not by the assaults of his enemies, but borne down by the numbers of those he had overcome;" but I faint at the description, my paper. I dare say your patience is exhausted, and I must

postpone till another day the *remainder of my narration.* And pray inform your readers that I will faithfully set down the result of the numerous consultations I had with my tormentors: the quacks, it will be a lesson to them, Sir, if example can teach. In the meantime, I remain,

Your very obedient servant,
FELIX TIBBS,
Citizen and Cordwainer.

P. S. I will write to you again, Sir, as soon as a fit of the spasms is over which is this moment beginning. I calculate that it will last me only five days. Folix's latin is as broken as his constitution.

M'DONALD, THE QUACK.

THIS humbugger has not only advertised that he means to prosecute us, but has written, or caused to be written, a long letter of explanation to THE SUNDAY TIMES, which is treated by that paper as it should be.—Courtenay did the same thing, but it would not do.—*Ecce!*

We have received a long letter signed 'VERITAS,' in vindication of Dr. Macdonald. We notice it because the writer, who is not unknown to us is respectable, and has enclosed his name and residence; but we cannot insert it, because our sole object in publishing the history of the 'Kent-road Quack,' from the *Medical Adviser*, was to guard the public against a vile impostor. *Were those details true?* and VERITAS does not attempt to disprove one of them. Further, if the Doctor is the character represented by VERITAS, 'he is the most slandered man alive,' and in the action which he threatens against the *Medical Adviser*, he will doubtless obtain a justly ample compensation—when, but not till then, we shall be as ready to publish his 'Vindication,' in justice to him, as we have been, in mercy to the public, in giving publicity to the charges."—"Sunday Times."

Quack Bill.

MORTIFICATIONS!

To Dr. W. Haywood, Dog and Duck Gardens, St. George's Fields.

SIR.—From the experienced merits of your STIPTIC BALSAM for the cure of MORTIFICATIONS, as well as for the cure of all other kind of wounds, which has been sufficiently proved by myself and numerous acquaintance, for near four years, I am induced for my own part to return you my sincere thanks, and I wish you to publish the annexed certificate for the benefit of mankind in general.

I am, Sir,
Your obliged humble servant,
JOSEPH WILSON.

No. 33, Strand,
June 22, 1801.

This is to certify, that on the 28th day of July, 1797, after being declared incurable by the faculty, who did not hesitate to pronounce that, within four hours I should be a breathless corpse, from a mortification so great, &c. I applied immediately to Dr. WILLIAM HAYWOOD, who on examining the wound, &c. declared he could, with the blessing of God, stop the mortification, and in a few weeks recover me from the same; which he did by the 13th day of the following September, and then requested of me to wait on my former doctors with his compliments, offering them his service provided any of the like cases should fall into their hands. This being one of the greatest of cures made after a mortification, and in the heat of summer, &c. I beg leave to recommend his STIPTIC BALSAM as the only safe and certain remedy in such cases; and it is certainly the very best stiptic for wounds ever offered to the public. Any person wishing to know the particulars of this case, may apply to me,

JOSEPH WILSON,
Umbrella Maker.
33, Strand,
June 22, 1801.

Now readers read the fellow's letter. We wish we could give a *fac-simile* of it—but that would puzzle the best artist. The lines were from one corner of the paper to the other.

DEAR MAM,

i are exceeding sorrey that you have neglected your self in not continuding to sind for the meains and taking them as you promised you would due for forty days had you, you mith by Gods blessing beenrstrd to parfect heth as well as Mistrs Jones is and was in five weaks and continuds in helth. But as you have not i shall

expect you will send me the munney for wat you have had from me.

2 Bottels of cordal for the dropsey at 11s. . .	£1 2 0
and 24 pills at 1d. . .	0 2 0
	£1 4 0

and if you pleais to undertak afresh and will continew to tak my meains constantly for forty days i will rest the the expense,

WILLIAM HAYWOOD.

No. 4, Water-street, Bristol,
October the 21, 1819.

MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

SINCE the commencement of our paper, we have opposed the practice of putting females to the tread-wheel, upon principles which every physician will approve of, and our arguments have been quoted by the most respectable writers : we may say, without self flattery, been instrumental in altering the opinions of many of its former supporters. It is now with unfeigned pleasure that we announce to the public, from the most authentic sources, that the unpopular, mischievous, and novel punishment of the tread-wheel, is about to be entirely abolished. We had flattered ourselves that the *medical objections*, which we in common with most other journalists, had taken to this corporeal infliction, had of themselves, brought about the determination with respect to it, which we now positively know to exist in the highest quarters; we find, however, that in addition to these objections, others as to its legality, as it has ever yet been practised, have conspired to bring it into immediate total disfavour. Several eminent counsels have been consulted on the business, and their opinions are decided that " the labours of the tread-wheel is to all intents and purposes a new penal labour, or punishment; that the legislature alone can constitutionally, or lawfully prescribe any penal labour or punishment, and that therefore it is, according to the whole letter of our laws and the entire spirit and practice of our constitution, absolutely and without qualification, illegal, to subject any culprit for any crime whatsoever, to the pains and penalties of the new and hitherto unrecognised punishment of the tread-wheel."

Such an impression have their arguments, in conjunction with the well attested facts of injury arising to the health, from the infliction of this novel punishment, had upon the minds and determination of some of the most influential members of the cabinet, that the only point really under discussion, is how to put down this obnoxious engine of punishment with least cost to the character of our provincial magistracy, who have been proved in this matter, not only to have usurped the functions of the legislature, but to have exercised a power which has elevated themselves above the judges of the land. Two plans are in agitation emanating from different parties in the state; the bolder, more manly, and indeed more rational plan, is that of at once forbidding the further employment of this punishment; the more lenient and temporising scheme, is that of entirely abstaining from any official countenance of it, and by means of the motion for the most detailed returns respecting the tread-wheel made a short time ago, by Mr. Dawson the under secretary of state, to frame a pretext for delay, till the present session shall have passed over; it being anticipated that the agitation of the question in the interim, between the present and ensuing session, will be conclusive with the public mind, and give ministers time to back out of the business with a decent grace, as far as themselves are concerned, and with the least possible offence to a body of men, (viz. the provincial magistracy) for whom, it must be insisted, they entertain more than just respect, and of whom, they have sometimes proved themselves pusillanimously afraid; what we have here said we pledge ourelves to be correct, and in corroboration of our statement, we have to observe, that so strongly is Mr. Peel, in particular, actuated by the feelings just pourtrayed, that on the evening when Sir Thomas Lethbridge presented the petition against

the punishment of the tread-wheel, from Sir John Hippisley and Mr. Briscoe, the Hon. Secretary actually left the house, and remained out of it above half an hour, in order to avoid being personally involved in a discussion, on which, from the office he held, it was likely he might be questioned, or otherwise appealed to.

The following is copied from a Sunday paper, the WEEKLY EXPRESS: *we mention the name of the paper because we think it only right that one periodical should acknowledg their borrowings from others. In the same paper, an article was copied from the Medical Adviser which related to the manner of holding inquests at Cold-bath-fields, and put off as their own.*

WE regret extremely that our limited space precludes us from giving at length the petition of Sir J. C. Hippisley, and H. Briscoe, Esq. presented to the House of Commons on Wednesday evening, against the use of that darling instrument of torture, the tread-wheel. This is unquestionably the most formidable document that has yet appeared on the subject — comprehending a most luminous condensation of the arguments against the application of this terrible engine of indiscriminate torture and humiliation. From this petition we learn what was certainly not generally known, that the tread-wheel of this country having been examined by a deputation of the Prison-discipline Society of France, made a report, on which the Marquis de Barbe Marbois, the president, thus expresses himself:—

"The introduction of a new kind of torture in France, appears to me an evil of greater magnitude than even in discipline itself, which demands other remedies. The tread-wheel is a real torment.—If physicians have been found, capable of asserting that this horrible exercise strengthens and preserves health, they have indulged in a cruel mockery."

Yet, as is stated in the petition, is this ignominious and corporeal punishment, *indiscriminately* applied with the same degree of infliction to every crime—the felon, the misdemeanant, and the vagrant—the robust and the weak—men afflicted with ruptures—women with children at the breast—without regard to difference of age, sex, and habit of life!!

Shocking case of cruelty.—At the Hants Easter Sessions, held at Winchester on Tuesday the 27th ult. the Rev. R. Wright addressed the court respecting lunatic paupers, and (according to a report of the proceedings inserted in the Winchester Journal) narrated the following case, as "having happened within his own knowledge."—"A very respectable young woman, during her state of pregnancy became insane. Her husband not being able to support her, she was placed in the poor-house, in the company of four other wretched beings like herself. She was thence removed to a lunatic asylum, where the visiting justices saw her,—she was then perfectly tranquil, and related her misfortunes. She knew that she had been insane, and that consequently restraint was necessary to prevent mischief; and she explained how that restraint was effected. It was by a ligature round her ankles, which was so tightly bound that the circulation of the blood was stopped, and a mortification came on in both feet. In less than a week after she was sent to the lunatic asylum, her feet rotted, and both fell off at the ancle joints!"

A general expression of horror throughout the whole court followed the Reverend Gentleman's pathetic relation. After a short pause Mr. W. proceeded. "The poor creature bore it with all resignation. She wished she had been at first sent to the asylum. She wished to live long enough to give birth and nourishment to her child, and then to die before that child could know the misfortunes of its ill-fated parent—her wish was fulfilled—she did give birth to her child, she nourished it, and then died!!"

Who can be the surgeon that permitted such horrible treatment? *Can* he be a surgeon? Can he be a man? We wish Mr. Wright would give us his name.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS received on Thursday, cannot be answered this week.

WE cannot give the plate and article promised last week, on the subject of the effects of mind in indigestion, until the number after next.

J. O. M.'s case cannot be observed upon here, let him send an address and his case *fully detailed*, habits of life, profession, manner of living, &c.

We before observed, that if every letter sent to us for advice, contained a private address, much trouble would be saved to us, for we then could answer either publicly or otherwise, as we thought the case required.

AN ANONYMOUS correspondent is informed, that the powder mentioned, is a tolerable substitute for the Tonic wine, and may be used by those who cannot afford the expense of the latter. The blue pill is sold by every druggist, and composed of mercury and conserve of roses.

A NEIGHBOUR is informed the medicine he now takes is useless. An injection of ten grains of sulphate of zinc to two ounces of water, and three times a day, will serve him.

J. H. should give the boy a powder of ten grains of jalap and twenty of cream of tartar, every three hours till well affected. And this he should repeat once a week. A poultice of alum water (not strong) and bread, (cold) put on each night may serve. Let him tell us how the boy is in a fortnight.

H. H.'s case is in no way dangerous. If he would have no objection to a small strip of black plaster put tightly over the part, it might do some good if continued for a month. Electricity should also be tried.

J. G. must state age, profession, habits, &c. &c. and send an address.

MEDICUS cannot *really think* us too harsh with M'Donald, when he sees by his "bold surgery," what an operation he performed for aneurism of the subclavian.

HONESTAS we thank again. Lamert shall soon come up.

THOS. CLARKE has had a letter directed as desired.

We thank AMICUS for his kindness and advice. He surmises wrongly: the cases at Bristol and Liverpool are strictures requiring surgical aid.

J. L. If the tendons are really contracted there is little hope. If the fingers could be, without violence, distended upon a splint, and bandaged, it might relieve.

O. P. of ——— Derby, will find a letter at the post office of his town.

JOHN THOMAS should merely take aperients. QUILL'S verses are not exactly suitable to us.

S. G. is thanked. CONSTANT READER and SUBSCRIBER require no advice.

On SATURDAY next will be Published,

No. I.

PRICE THREEPENCE, (to be continued Weekly) OF

THE ECONOMIST,

AND

GENERAL ADVISER.

It will embrace among others the following subjects.—The Art of Housekeeping, in every branch.—The best Modes of employing Income.—Directions for Fathers in the Selection of Professions or Trades for their Children.—Analysis of the Markets.—Strictures upon Shops and Shopping.—Domestic Medical Hints—Cookery.—Carving.—Pickling.—Brewing.—Distilling.—House-taking, and the Laws between Landlords and Tenants.—Gardening.—Travelling.—Agriculture.—Public Abuses, &c. &c. and will form an admirable Companion to the Mechanic's Magazine.

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THE

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AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

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ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

We this week present our readers with an extract from Foote's Devil upon Two Sticks; and although it takes up a great proportion of our space, yet we trust it is not ill applied. The satire is well directed against both the regulars who *deserve*, and the quacks. At the time that Foote wrote this farce, there was as much ignorance amongst a great portion of the *regulars* as amongst the quacks, and he therefore did not spare them.

Enter Julep *and* Apozem, *with a letter.*

Julep. I tell you, Apozem, you are but young in the business, and don't foresee how much we shall be all hurt in the end.

Apozem. Well, but what can be done, Mr. Julep? Here Dr. Hellebore writes me word, that they threaten a siege, and are provided with fire-arms: would you have them surrender the college at once?

Julep. Fire-arms? if they are mad enough not to know that the pen is the doctor's best pistol, why, let them proceed!

Apozem. But are we to stand quietly by, and see the very seat of the science demolished and torn?

Julep. And with what arms are we to defend it? where are our cannon? We have mortars indeed, but then they are fit to hold nothing but pestles; and, as to our small-arms, of what use can they be in a siege; they are made, you know, to attack only the rear.

Apozem. Come, come, Mr. Julep, you make too light of these matters; to have the lawful descendants from Galen, the throne of Esculapius, overturned by a parcel of Goths!

Julep. Peace, Apozem, or treat your betters with proper respect! What, numskull, do you think all physicians are blockheads, who have not washed their hands in the Cam or the Isis?

Apozem. Well, but I hope you will allow that a university-doctor—

Julep. May, for aught you know, be a dunce. Besides, fool, what have we to do with degrees? the doctor that doses best is the best doctor for us. You talk of the College; there are some of their names, I am sure, that I never desire to see on my file.

Apozem. Indeed!

Julep. Indeed? no, indeed. Why there's Dr. Diet, that makes such a dust:-he had a person of fashion, a patient of mine, under his care t'other day; as fine a slow fever! I was in hopes of half making my fortune——

Apozem. Yes; I love a slow fever. Was it nervous?

Julep. Ay; with a lovely dejection of spirits.

Apozem. That was delightful, indeed! I look upon the nerves and the bile to be the two best friends we have to our back.—Well, pray, and how did it answer?

Julep. Not at all; the scoundrel let him slip through my hands for a song; only a paltry six pounds and a crown.

Apozem. Shameful!

Julep. Infamous! and yet, forsooth, he was one of your College. Well, now to shew you the difference in men; but the very week after, Dr. Linctus, from Leyden, run me up a bill of thirty odd pounds, for only attending Alderman Soakpot six days in a surfeit.

Apozem. Ay, that was doing of business.

Julep. Ah! that's a sweet pretty practitioner, Apozem: we must all do our utmost to push him.

Apozem. Without doubt. But, notwithstanding all that you say, Mr. Julep, there are some of the gentlemen of the College, that I know——

Julep. Ah! as fine fellows as ever fingered a pulse; not one in the trade will deny it.

Apozem. But, amongst all now, old Nat Nightshade is the man for my money.

Julep. Yes; Nat, Nat has merit, I own; but, pox take him! he is so develish quick: To be sure, he has a pretty fluent pen whilst it lasts; but then he makes such dispatch, that one has hardly time to send in two dozen of draughts.

Apozem. Yes; the doctor drives on, to be sure.

Julep. Drives on! If I am at all free in the house when old Nightshade is sent for, as a preparatory dose I always recommend an attorney.

Apozem. An attorney? for what?

Julep. To make the patient's will, before he swallows the doctor's prescription.

Apozem. That is prudent.

Julep. Yes; I generally afterwards get the thanks of the family.

Apozem. What, Mr. Julep, for the attorney, or the physician? ha, ha!

Julep. Ha, ha! you are arch, little Apozem; quite a wag I profess.

Apozem. Why, you know, brother Julep, these are subjects upon which one can hardly be serious.

Julep. True, true; but then you should never laugh loud in the street; we may indulge, indeed, a kind of simpering smile to our patients, as we drive by in our chariots; but then there is a decency, not to say dignity, that becomes the public demeanour of us, who belong to the faculty.

Apozem. True. And yet there are times when one can hardly forbear: Why, t'other day now I had like to have burst: I was following a funeral

into St. George's—a sweet pretty burying; velvet pall, hat-band, and gloves; and, indeed, the widow was quite handsome in all things; paid my bill the next week, without sconcing off sixpence, though they were thought to have lived happily together—but, as I was a-saying, as we were entering the church, who should stand in the porch but Kit Cabbage the taylor, with a new pair of breeches under his arm: The sly rogue made me a bow, "Servant, Master Apozem!" says he; "what, you are carrying home your work too, I see." Did you ever hear such a dog?

Enter LAST, *with a pair of shoes.*

Last. Pray, good gentleman, can you tell a body which is the ready road to find Warwick-lane?

Devil. Warwick-lane, friend? and pr'ythee what can thy errand be there?

Last. I am going there to take out a licence to make me a doctor, an like your worship.

Devil. Where do you live?

Last. A little way off in the country.

Devil. Your name, honest friend, and your business?

Last. My name, master, is Last; by trade I am a doctor, and by profession a maker of shoes: I was born to the one, and bred up to the other.

Devil. Born? I don't understand you.

Last. Why, I am a seventh son, and so were my father.

Devil. Oh! a very clear title. And pray, now, in what branch does your skill chiefly lie.

Last. By casting a water, I cures the jaundarse; I taps folks for a tenpenny; and have a choice charm for the agar; and, over and above that, master, I bleeds.

Devil. Bleeds? and are your neighbours so bold as to trust you?

Last. Trust me? ay, master, that they will, sooner than narra a man in the country. Mayhap you may know Dr. Tyth'em our rector at home.

Devil. I can't say that I do.

Last. He's the flower of a man in the pulpit. Why, t'other day, you must know, taking a turn in his garden, and thinking of nothing at all, down falls the doctor flat in a fit of perplexity; Madame Tyth'em, believing her husband was dead, directly sent the sexton for I.

Devil. An affectionate wife!

Last. Yes; they are a main happy couple. Sure as a gun, master, when I comed, his face was as black as his cassock; but howsomdever, I took out my lancelot, and forthwith opened a large artifice here in one of the jugulers. The doctor bled like a pig.

Devil. I dare say.

Last. But it did the business, howsomdever; I compassed the job,

Devil. What, he recovered?

Last. Recovered? Lord help you! why, but last Sunday was se'nnight—to be sure, the doctor is given to weeze a little, because why, he is main opulent, and apt to be tisicky—but he composed as sweet a discourse—I slept from beginning to end.

Devil. That was composing, indeed.

Last. Ay, warn't it, master, for a man that is strucken in years?

Devil. Oh, a wonderful effort!

Last. Well, like your worship, and, besides all this I have been telling you, I have a pretty tight hand at a tooth.

Devil. Indeed!

Last. Ay; and I'll say a bold word, that, in drawing a thousand, I never stumpt a man in my life: Now let your Rusperni's, and all your foreign mounseers, with their fine dainty freeches, say the like if they can.

Devil. I defy them.

Last. So you may. Then, about a dozen years ago, before these here Suttons made such a noise, I had some thoughts of occupying for the smallpox.

Devil. Ay; that would have wound up your bottom at once. And why did not you?

Last. Why, I dont know, master; the neighbours were frightful, and would not consent; otherwise, by this time, 'tis my belief, men, women, and children, I might have occupied twenty thousand at least.

Devil. Upon my word!—But, you say a dozen years, Master Last: As you have practised physic without permission so long, what makes you now think of getting a licence?

Last. Why, it is all along with one Lotion, a pottercarrier, that lives in a little town hard by we; he is grown old and lascivious, I think, and threat-

nes to present me at size, if so be I practise any longer.

Devil. What, I suppose you run away with the business?

Last. Right, master; you have guessed the matter at once. So I was telling my tale to Sawney M'Gregor, who comes now and then to our town, with his pack; God, he advised me to get made a doctor at once, and send for a diplummy from Scotland.

Devil. Why, that was the right road, master Last.

Last. True. But my master Tyth'em tells me, that I can get it done for pretty near the same price here in London; so I had rather d'you see, lay out my money at home, than transport it to foreign parts, as we say; because why, master, I thinks there has been too much already gone that road.

Devil. Spoke like an Englishman!

Last. I have a pair of shoes here, to carry home to farmer Fallow's son, that lives with master Grogram the mercer hard by here in Cheapside; so I thought I might as well do both businesses under one.

Devil. True. Your way, master Last, lies before you; the second street, you must turn to the left; then enter the first great gates that you see.

Last. And who must I ask for?

Devil. Oh, pull out your purse; you will find that hint sufficient! It is a part of the world where a fee is never refused.

Last. Thank you, master! You are main kind; very civil indeed! *(Going, returns)* I wish, master, you had now either the agar or the jaundice; I would set you right in a trice.

Devil. Thank you, master Last; but I am as well as I am.

Last. Or, if so be you likes to open a vein, or would have a tooth or two knocked out of your head, I'll do it for nothing.

Devil. Not at present, I thank you! when I want, I'll call at your house in the country. [*Exit Last.*

Well, my young couple, and what say you now?

Inc. Say, Sir? that I am more afraid of being sick than ever I was in my life.

Devil. Pho! you know nothing as yet. But my time draws nigh for possessing the President; If I could but get some intelligent person, to conduct you to the place where the Licentiates assemble—There seems a sober, sedate-looking lad; perhaps he may answer our purpose. Hark'ee young man!

Enter JOHNNY MACPHERSON.

Macp. What's your wull, Sur? would you spear aught wi' me?

Devil. Though I think I can give a good guess, pray from what part of the world may you come?

Macp. My name is Johnney Macpherson, and I came out of the North.

Devil. Are you in business at present?

Macp. I conna say that, Sir, nor that I am inteerely dastitute neither; but I sal be unco glad to get a mair solid establishment.

Devil, Have you been long in this town?

Macp. Aboot a month awa, Sir; I launded frae Leith, in the guide ship the Traquair, Davy Donaldson, maister, and am lodged wi Sawney Sincliar, at the sign o' the City of Glascow, not far frae the monument.

Devil. But you are in employment?

Macp. Ay, for some part of the day.

Devil. And to what may your profits amount?

Macp. Ah! for the matter of that, it is a praty smart little income.

Devil. Is it a secret how much?

Macp. Not at aw; I get three-pence an hour for larning Latin to a physician in the ceety.

Devil. The very man that we want. —Latin! and, what, are you capable!

Macp. Cappable! Hut away, mon! Ken ye, that I was heed of the humanity-class for mair than a twalvemonth? and was offered the chair of the grammatical professorship in the College, which amunts to a matter of sux pounds British a year.

Devil. That's more than I knew. Can you guess, Sir, where your Scholar is now?

Macp. It is na long, Sir, that I laft him conning his *As in præsenti*; after which, he talked of ganging to meet some friends o' the faculty, aboot a sort of a squabble, that he says is sprang up among them; he wanted me to gan along wi him, as I had

gi'n mysel to study madicine a little before I quitted the North.

Devil. Do you know the public-house where they meet.

Macp. Yes, yes; unco weel, Sir; it is at the tavern the south side of Paul's Kirk.

Devil. Will you take the trouble to conduct this young couple thither? they will amply reward you.—You and your partner will follow this lad. Fear nothing; by my art, you are invisible to all but those that you desire should see you. At the College we shall rejoin one another; for thither the Licentiates will lead you.

Inv. But how shall we be able to distinguish you from the rest of the Fellows?

Devil. By my large wig, and superior importance: in a word, you must look for me in the PRESIDENT.

[*Exeunt.*

The end of the second act.

ACT III.

SCENE I—*A Street.*

FINGERFEE, SLIGO, OSASAFRAS, BROADBRIM, *other Doctors, and* MACPHERSON, *discovered.*

Fingerfee. No; I can't help thinking this was by much the best method. If, indeed, they refuse us an amicable entrance, we are then justified in the use of corrosives.

Sligo. I tell you, Dr. Fingerfee—I am sorry, d'ye see, to differ from so old a practitioner; but I don't like your prescription at all, at all! For what signifies a palliative regiment, with such a rotten constitution? May I never finger a pulse as long as I live, if you get their voluntary consent to go in, unless indeed it be by compulsion.

Osas. I entirely coincide with my very capable countrymen, Dr. Sligo d'ye see; and do give my advice, in this consultation for putting the whole College under a course of steel without further delay.

Sligo. I am much obligated to you for your kind complimant, doctor. But, pray, what may your name be?

Osas. Dr. Osasafras, at your humble service.

Sligo. I am your very obadient alsho! I have hard tell of your name. But what did you mane by my countryman! Pray, doctor, of what nation are you?

Osas. Sir, I have the honour to be a native of Ireland.

Sligo. Osasafras? that's a name of no note; he is not a Milesian, I am sure. The family, I suppose, came over t'other day with Strongbow, not above seven or eight hundred years ago; or perhaps a descendant from one of Oliver's drummers—'Pon my conscience, doctor, I should hardly belave you were Irish.

Osas. What, Sir, d'ye doubt my veracity?

Sligo. Not at all, my dear doctor; it is not for that: but, between me and yourself, you have lived a long time in this town.

Osas. Like enough.

Sligo. Ay; and was here a great while before ever I saw it.

Osas. What of that?

Sligo. Very well, my dear doctor: Then, putting that and t'other together, my notion of the upshot is, that if so be you are a native of Ireland, upon my conscience, you must have been born there very young.

Osas. Young? ay, to be sure: Why, my soul, I was christened there.

Sligo. Ay!

Osas. Ay, was I, in the County of Meath.

Sligo. Oh, that alters the property; that makes it as clear as Fleet-Ditch. I should be glad countryman, of your nearer acquaintance.—But what little slim doctor is that, in his own head of hair? I don't recollect to have seen his features before.

Osas. Nor I, to my knowledge.

Sligo. Perhaps he may be able to tell me, if I asks him himself.—I am proud to see you, doctor, on this occasion; because why, it becomes every jontleman that is of the faculty—that is, that is not of their faculty; you understand me—to look about him and stir.

Macp. Oh, by my troth, you are right, Sir! The leemiting of physic aw to ain hoose, caw it a College, or by what denomination you wull, it is at best but establishing a sort of monopoly.

Sligo. 'Pon my conscience, that is a fine observation. By the twist of your tongue, doctor, (no offence) I should be apt to guess that you might be a foreigner born.

Macp. Sir?

Sligo. From Russia, perhaps, or Muscovy.

Macp. Hut awa, mon! not at aw: Zounds, I am a Breeton.

Sligo. Then, I should suppose, doctor, pretty far to the northward.

Macp. Ay; you are right, Sir.

Sligo. And pray, doctor, what particular branch of our business may have taken up the most of your time?

Macp. Botany.

Sligo. Botany! In what college?

Macp. The university of St. Andrew's.

Osas. Pray, doctor, is not botany a very dry sort of a study?

Sligo. Most damnably so in those parts, my dear doctor; for all the knowledge they have they must get from dried herbs, because the devil of any green that will grow there.

Macp. Sir, your information is wrong.

Sligo. Come, my dear doctor, hold your palaver, and dont be after puffing on us, because why, you know in your conscience that in your part of the world you get no cabbage but thistles, and those you are obliged to raise upon hotbeds.

Macp. Thistles! zounds, Sir, do you mean to affront me?

Sligo. That, doctor, is as you pleases to take it.

Macp. God's life, Sir, I would ha' you to ken, that there is narra a mon wi his heed upon his shoulders that dare—

Fing. Peace, peace, gentlemen! let us have no civil discord. Doctor Sligo is a lover of pleasantry; but, I am sure, had no design to affront you. A joke,—nothing else.

Macp. A joke! ah; I like a joke weel enough, but I did na understand the doctor's jibing and jeering. Perhaps my wut may not be aw together as sharp as the doctor's, but I have a sword, Sir—

Sligo. A sword, Sir!

Fing. A sword! ay, ay, there is no doubt you have both very good ones; reserve them for—Oh! here comes our ambassador.

Enter DYACHYLON.

Well, Dr. Dyachylon, what news from the College? Will they allow us free ingress and egress?

Diac. I could not get them to swallow a single demand.

All. No?

Sligo. Then let us drive there, and drench them.

Diac. I was heard with disdain, and refused with an air of defiance.

Sligo. There, gentlemen! I foretold you what would happen at first.

All. He did, he did.

Sligo. Then we have nothing for it, but to force our passage at once.

All. By all means; let us march.

Broad. Friend Fingerfee, would our brethren but incline their ears to me for a minute—

Fing. Gentlemen, Dr. Broadbrim desires to be heard.

All. Hear him, hear him!

Sligo. Paw, honey, what signifies hearing? I long to be doing, my jewel!

Fing. But hear Dr. Melchisedech Broadbrim, however.

All. Ay, ay; hear Dr. Broadbrim.

Broad. Fellow-labourers in the same vineyard, ye know well how much I stand inclined to our cause; forasmuch as not one of my brethren can be more zealous than I—

All. True, true.

Broad. But ye wot also, that I hold it not meet or wholesome to use carnal weapon, even for the defence of myself; much more unseemly, then, must I deem it to draw the sword for the offending of others.

Sligo. Paw! brother doctors; dont let him bother us with his *yea* and *nay* nonsense!

Broad. Friend Sligo, do not be choleric; and know, that I am as free to draw my purse, in this cause, as thou art thy sword. And thou wilt find, at the length, notwithstanding thy swaggering, that the first will do us best service.

Sligo. Well, but—

All. Hear him, hear him!

Broad. It is my motion, then, brethren, that we do forthwith send for a sinful man in the flesh called an attorney.

Sligo. An attorney!

Broad. Ay, an attorney; and that

we do direct him to take out a parchment instrument, with a seal fixed thereto.

Sligo. Paw, pox! what good can that do?

Broad. Dont be too hasty, friend Sligo.—And therewith, I say, let him possess the outward tabernacle of the vain man, who delighteth to call himself president, and carry him before the men clothed in lambskin, who at Westminster are now sitting in judgment.

Sligo. Paw! a law-suit! that wont end with our lives.—Let us march!

All. Ay, ay.

Sligo. Come, Dr. Habakkuk, will you march in the front or the rear?

Hab. Pardon me, doctor, I cannot attend you.

Sligo. What! d'ye draw back when it comes to the push?

Hab. Not at all; I would gladly join in putting these Philistines to flight; for I abhor them worse than hog's puddings, in which the unclean beast and the blood are all jumbled together.

Sligo. Pretty food, for all that.

Hab. But this is Saturday, and I dare not draw my sword on the Sabbath.

Sligo. Then stay with your brother Melchisedech; for though of different religions, you are both of a kidney. Come, doctors, out with your swords! Huzza! and now for the Lane! Huzza!

[*Exeunt.*

Manent BROADBRIM *and* HABAKKUK.

Broad. Friend Habakkuk, thou seest how headstrong and wilful these men are; but let us use discretion, however. Wilt thou step to the Inn that taketh its name from the city of Lincoln? enquire there for a man with a red rag at his back, a small black cap on his pate, and a bushel of hair on his breast; I think they call him a serjeant.

Hab. They do.

Broad Then, without let or delay, bring him hither, I pray thee.

Hab. I will about it this instant.

Broad. His admonition, perhaps, may prevail. Use dispatch, I beseech thee, friend Habakkuk.

Hab. As much as if I was posting to the Treasury to obtain a large subscription in a new loan, or a lottery.

Broad. Nay, then, friend, I have no reason to fear thee. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.—*The College.*

DEVIL (*as* HELLEBORE, *the President*), CAMPHIRE, CALOMEL, SECRETARY, *and* PUPILS, *discovered.*

Sec. The Licentiates, Sir, will soon be at hand.

Hel. Let them.

Cal. We will do our duty, however; and, like the patricians of old, receive with silence these Visigoths in the senate.

Hel. I am not, Dr. Calomel, of so pacific a turn: Let us keep the evil out of doors if we can; if not, *vim vi*, repel force by force.—Barricado the gates!

Sec. It is done.

Hel. Are the buckets and fire engines fetched from St. Dunstan's?

Sec. They have been here, Sir, this half hour.

Hel. Let twelve apothecaries be placed at the pump, and their apprentices supply them with water!

Sec. Yes, Sir.

Hel. But let the engine be played by old Jollup, from James-street. Not one of the trade has a better hand at directing a pipe.

Sec. Mighty well, Sir.

Hal. In the time of siege, every citizen ought in duty to serve.—Having thus, brothers, provided a proper defence, let us coolly proceed to our business. Is there any body here to demand a licence to day?

Sec. A practitioner, Mr. President, out of the country.

Hel. Are the customary fees all discharged?

Sec. All, Sir.

Hel. Then let our censors, Dr. Christopher Camphor, and Dr. Cornelius Calomel, introduce the practitioner for examination.

[*Exeunt Camphire and Calomel.*

After this duty is dispatched, we will then read the College and Students a lecture.

Enter CAMPHIRE *and* CALOMEL, *with* LAST.

Last. First, let me lay down my shoes.

[*They advance, with three bows, to the table.*

Hel. Let the candidate be placed on a stool. What's the doctor's name?

Sec. Emanuel Last, Mr. President.

Hel. Dr. Last, you have petitioned the College, to obtain a licence for the practice of physic; and though we have no doubt of your great skill and abilities, yet our duty compels us previously to ask a few questions. What academy had the honour to form you.

Last. Anan!

Hel. We want to know the name of the place where you have studied the science of physic.

Last. Dunstable.

Hel. That's some German university; so he can never belong to the College.

All. Never; oh, no.

Hel. Now, Sir, with regard to your physiological knowledge. By what means, Dr. Last, do you discover that a man is not well?

Last. By his complaint that he is ill.

Hel. Well replied! no surer prognostic.

All. None surer.

Hel. Then, as to recovering a subject that is ill—Can you venture to undertake the cure of an ague?

Last. With arra a man in the country.

Hel. By what means?

Last. By a charm.

Hel. And pray of what materials may that charm be composed?

Last. I wont tell; 'tis a secret.

Hel. Well replied! the College has no right to pry into secrets.

All. Oh, no; by no means.

Hel. But now, Dr. Last, to proceed in due form;—are you qualified to administer remedies to such diseases as belong to the head?

Last. I believe I may.

Hel. Name some to the College.

Last. The tooth-ache.

Hel. What do you hold the best method to treat it.

Last. I pulls 'em up by the roots.

Hel. Well replied, brothers! that, without doubt, is a radical cure.

All. Without doubt.

Hel. Thus far as to the head: proceed we next to the middle. When, Dr. Last, you are called in to a patient with a pain in his bowels, what then is your method of practice?

Last. I claps a trencher hot to the part.

Hel. Embrocation; very well! But if this application should fail, what is the next step that you take?

Last. I gi's a vomit and a purge.

Hel. Well replied! for it is plain there is a disagreeable guest in the house; he has opened both doors; if he will go out at neither, it is none of his fault.

All. Oh, no; by no means.

Hel. We have now dispatched the middle and head; come we finally to the other extremity,—the feet! Are you equally skilful in the disorders incidental to them?

Last. I believe I may.

Hel. Name some.

Last. I have a great vogue all four way or curing of corns.

Hel. What are the means that you use?

Last. I cuts them out.

Hel. Well replied! extirpation; no better method of curing can be. Well, brethren, I think we may now, after this strict and impartial enquiry, safely certify, that Dr. Last, from top to toe, is an able physician.

All. Very able, very able, indeed.

Hel. And every way qualified to proceed in his practice.

All. Every way qualified.

Hel. You may descend, Dr. Last. [*takes his seat among them.*] Secretary, first read, and then give the doctor his licence.

Sec. [*Reads.*] "To all whom these presents may come greeting. Know ye, that after a most strict and severe inquisition, not only into the great skill and erudition, but the morals of Dr. Emanuel Last, We are authorized to grant unto the said doctor full power, permission, and licence, to pill, bolus, lotion, potion, draught, dose, drench, purge, bleed, blister, clister, cup, scarify, syringe, salivate, couch, flux, sweat, diet, dilute, tap, plaister, and poultice, all persons, in all diseases, of all ages, conditions, and sexes. And we do strictly command and enjoin all surgeons, apothecaries, with their apprentices, all midwives, male, female, and nurses, at all times, to be aiding and assisting to the said Dr. Emanuel Last. And we do further charge all mayors, justices, alder-

men, sheriffs, bailiffs, headboroughs, constables, and coroners, not to molest or intermeddle with the said doctor, if any party whom he shall pill, bolus, lotion, potion, draught, dose, drench, purge, bleed, blister, clister, cup, scarify, syringe, salivate, couch, flux, sweat, diet, dilute, tap, plaister, and poultice, should happen to die, but to deem that the said party died a natural death, any thing appearing to the contrary notwithstanding. Given under our hands, &c. Hercules Hellebore, Cornelius Calomel, Christopher Camphire.

Last. Then, if a patient die, they must not say that I killed him?

Hel. They say? Why, how should they know, when it is not one time in twenty that we know it ourselves? —Proceed we now to the lecture! *(They all rise and come forward to the table).* Brethren and students, I am going to open to you some notable discoveries that I have made respecting the source, or primary cause, of all distempers incidental to the human machine. And these, brethren, I attribute to certain animalculæ, or piscatory entities, that insinuate themselves through the pores into the blood, and, in that fluid, sport, toss, and tumble about, like mackarel or cod-fish in the great deep. And, to convince that this is not a mere *gratis dictum*, an hypothesis only, I will give you demonstrative proof. Bring hither the microscope!

Enter a SERVANT *with microscope.*

Doctor Last, regard this receiver. Take a peep.

Last. Where?

Hel. There. Those two yellow drops there, were drawn from a subject afflicted with the jaundice.—Well, what d'ye see?

Last. Some little creatures like yellow flies, that are hopping and skipping about.

Hel. Right. Those yellow flies give the tinge to the skin, and undoubtedly cause the disease. And now for the cure!—I administer to every patient the two-and-fiftieth part of a scruple of the ovaria or eggs of the spider; these are thrown by the digestive powers into the secretory, there separated from the alimentory, and then precipitated into the circulatory; where, finding a proper nidus or nest, they quit their torpid state, and vivify, and upon vivification, discerning the flies, their natural food, they immediately fall foul of them, extirpate the race out of the blood, and restore the patient to health.

Last. And what becomes of the spiders?

Hel. Oh, they die, you know, for want of nutrition. Then I send the patient down to Brighthelmston; and a couple of dips in the salt water washes the cob-webs entirely out of the blood.—Now, gentlemen, with respect to the——

Enter SERVANT.

Serv. Sir, Mr. Forceps, from the Hospital.

Hel. The Hospital! Is this a time to——

Enter FORCEPS.

Well, Forceps, what's your will?

For. To know, Sir, what you would have done with the hospital patients to-day.

Hel. To-day! why, what was done yesterday?

For. Sir, we bled the west ward, and jalloped the north.

Hel. Did ye? Why then, bleed the north ward, and jallop the west, to-day. [*Exit For.*

Now, I say, brethren——

Enter SERVANT.

Ser. The licentiates are drawn up at the gate.

Hel. Who leads 'em?

Serv. They are led on by Sligo. They demand instant entrance, and threaten to storm.

Hel. Doctors Calomel and Camphire, our two aides-de-camp, survey their present posture, and report it to us.

Without. Huzza!

Hel. Bid old Jollup be ready to unmask the engine at the word of command.

Enter CAMPHIRE.

Hel. Now, Dr. Camphire?

Camp. The sledge-hammers are come, and they prepare to batter in breach.

Hel. Let the engine be played off at the very first blow! [*Exit Camp.*

Without. Huzza!

Enter CALOMEL.

Hel. Now, doctor?

Cal. The first fire has demolished Dr. Fingerfee's foretop.

Hel. That's well. [*Exit Cal.*

Enter CAMPHIRE.

Now, doctor.

Camp. The second fire has dropt the stiff buckles of Dr. Osasafras.

Hel. Better and better!

[*Exit Camp.*

Enter CALOMEL.

Now, doctor?

Cal. Both the knots of Dr. Anodyne's tye are dissolved.

Hel. Best of all! [*Exit Cal.*

Enter CAMPHIRE.

Now, doctor?

Camp. As Dr. Sligo, with open mouth, drove furiously on, he received a full stream in his teeth, and is retired from the field dripping wet.

Hel. Then the day's our own.

[*Exit Camp.*

Enter CALOMEL.

Now, doctor?

Cal. All is lost! Dr. Sligo, recruited by a bumper of Drogheda, is returned with fresh vigour.

Hel. Let our whole force be pointed at him! [*Exit. Cal.*

Enter CAMPHIRE.

Now, doctor?

Camp. The siege slackens; Dr. Broadbrim, with Serjeant Demur, are arrived in the camp. [*Exit.*

Hel. What can that mean?

Enter CALOMEL.

Now, doctor?

Cal. Serjeant Demur has thrown this manifesto over the gate. [*Exit.*

Hel. [*looking at the parchment.*] Ha! "Middlesex to wit. John Doe and Richard Doe." It is a challenge to meet 'em at Westminster Hall; then we have breathing-time till the term.

Enter LAST.

Now, doctor?

Last. I have forgot my shoes.

[*Takes 'em up, and exit.*

Hel. Oh!

Enter CAMPHIRE.

Camp. The licentiates file off towards Fleet-street.

Hel. Follow all, and harass the rear! leave not a dry thread among them! Huzza!

APHORISMS OF EXTERNAL USE.

1. HIP. HOT waters too oft used, bring these discommodities, tenderness of the flesh, distemper of the sinews, heaviness and stupefaction of the mind, fluxes of blood, fainting, swooning, and to these succeed death.

COOK. 'Tis meant of affects of the breast especially of pleurisie, in which fomenting with hot water is not immoderately to be used.

ED. True.—Too much of any thing is bad; but warm bathing must not be therefore condemned.

2. HIP. Hot water yields to us a great token of security and safety, when it causeth suppuration, yet not in all ulcers: it softens and mollifies the skin, and makes it thin; easeth pain, mitigates and assuages cold, shakings, convulsion and distension; it dissolves the heaviness of the head; it profiteth broken bones very much, especially if bare without flesh, principally in the head, if they be ulcerated. It profiteth those things which are mortified and ulcerated through cold, ulcers in the conies, privy members, womb, bladder, to all which 'tis a friend, and of good judgment; but cold water is an enemy and destroyeth.

COOK. 'Tis not profitable in all ulcers; for some will not be brought to suppuration by heat; besides, cancers by it may be made worse, because it procures putrefaction.

ED. Hippocrates is right — Cook wrong.

3. HIP. We must use cold water to those sores whence blood issues, yet not to the same place but near it; and if any inflammation of the guts incline to red and bloody colour, with fresh clear blood, apply cold water to them; but if the inflammation be inveterate and old, it maketh them black. It helpeth erysipelas, if not ulcerated; but if it be, it is hurtful.

COOK. Cold juices which are proper, may do better, which in bleeding at the nose may be applied to the region of the liver and forehead, &c. For this see Vander Hoiden on cold water, where you have its use at large."

ED. Both wrong, except in bleeding at the nose—warm applications to every description of ulcers, is now the ap-

proved practice, and on indisputable principles.

4. Hip. Cold water pour'd out abundantly, doth ease and diminish the tumors and pains of the joynts, which are without ulcers; also gouty swellings and pains, and convulsions for the most part: and dissolveth the pains and lessens it. For a small benumbing hath the force of dissolving and putting away pain.

Cook. See Vander Hoiden. Water of the spawn of frogs is excellent, fomenting warm. The conclusion of this Aphorism, is a reason of all the rest.

Ed. This aphorism is generally true: in gouty swellings and rheumatism we should oppose it.

5. Hip. Cold water bites and nips ulcers, hardeneth the skin, hindereth suppuration, causeth blackness, bringeth cold shivering fits of agues, convulsions and distensions of the sinews.

Cook. Cold water is hurtful to the bones, teeth, sinews, womb, and marrow of the back: but that which is hot, is good and profitable.

The use of cold water bringeth convulsions, distensions or cramp, black and cold aguish shakings.

These three last signify what hurt the immoderate use of cold waters produceth.

Ed. Here Cook speaks with judgment.

Of times in general: the four times of the year.

6. Hip. Alteration and variableness of the seasons do most especially bring forth diseases: as likewise great changes of cold and heat in those times, and of other things answering them in proportion.

Cook. Because they alter the air which we draw in continually, and so affect our bodies: for what the air is, so are the spirits; what the spirits, so are the humors; as the humors, such are the solid parts of the whole body.

Ed. Hippocrates is here true—but Cook speaks like an old woman.

7. Hip. All diseases are caused in any time of the year, yet some are caused and stirred in some one time more than in another.

Cook. All morbific causes depend not on the times constitutions, for things non-natural may produce them.

Ed. The aphorism is true—the comment nonsense.

8. Hip. Some natures in summer, and some in winter, are better or worse.

Cook. Various bodies are inclinable to various diseases. Those cold and moist are better in summer, the hot and dry worse.

Ed. Neither aphorism nor comment is worth any thing.

9. Hip. Autumnal diseases are to be expected in those seasons, when in the same day, it is sometimes hot, and sometimes cold.

Cook. The temperaments of the seasons procure diseases, not the names: so that by the air we may presage diseases, which are to be oppugned with the greater remedies, and oft with alexipharmicks.

Ed. Hippocrates is just and Cook is absurdly true.

10. Hip. In times certain and moderate, observing the seasonableness, certain and seasonable diseases having a happy ending are ingendered; but in uncertain times uncertain diseases are produced, and ill to be judged.

Cook. For diseases follow the nature of the efficient causes, and they are likely such as the temperature of the year is.

Ed. Mere talk.

SPRING.

11. Hip. In the spring there happeneth madness, melancholy, epilepsie, fluxes of blood, quinsies, rheums, distentions of humours, cough, leprosie, dry scab, and many ulcerated wheals, pushes and pains in the joynts.

Cook. Many of these being not dangerous, but rather inducing to health by driving out the noxious humors. This aphorism rather confirmeth than opposeth the latter end of the next.

Ed. In the summer, autumn, and winter, also happen these diseases provided there is intemperate weather.

12. Hip. The spring is most wholesome and free from deadly diseases.

Cook. The former diseases falling out do not abate its salubrity, they being caused by vitious humours heaped up in the winter, and by the warm of the spring occasioned to diffuse, and sometimes to putrefie.

Ed. A mild spring, or rather a dry spring is the most favourable to health.

13 Hip. If bleeding be necessary, remove it in the spring.

Cook. That is, if they overflow with blood, lest it thicken, or rush into some noble part. It is excellent to preserve health and prevent diseases; besides the time being temperate it is most fit.

Ed. Bleeding unless to relieve disease is wrong, and disease will occur in every season.

SUMMER.

14. Hip. In summer some of the former, continual fevers and burning; oft tertians and quartans, vomiting, fluxes of the belly, inflammation of the eyes, pains of the ears, ulcers of the mouth, putrefactions of the genitals, and sweatings.

Cook. All these are incident as in the end of spring, so in the beginning of summer, they being both of the like temperature. The explanation and the cure of these and other diseases reckoned up in the aphorism you have in the practice.

Ed. This aphorism is true.

AUTUMN.

15. Hip. Many summer diseases are in autumn, both quartans and erratieks, swellings of the spleen, dropsie, phthisis, strangury, looseness, and excoriations of the bowels, sciatica, quinsies, asthma, iliack passion, epilepsie, madness, melancholy.

Cook. The beginning of autumn and end of summer have the same affinity. All those autumn diseases are from the humours turned in and it is the very apparent ill habit.

Ed. True, but '*humours turned in*,' as Cook says, is nonsense.

16. Hip. Autumn is hurtful to such as are in a phthisis.

Cook. The air of the time is most dangerous, because by its inequality of heat and cold, it causes sharp and salt distillations.

Ed. True; so is the winter and the spring, if cold.

17. Hip. In autumn universally there are sharp and deadly diseases.

Cook. By reason of its inequality, the morning and evening being cold, and the mid-day hot: the former summer having made the humour adust, and weakened the forces, the aforesaid coldness drives the viscous humors into the body, and the eating of abundance of fruit then, breeds store of ill hûmors.

Ed. This is true.

WINTER.

18. Hip. Engenders pleurisies, inflammation of the lungs, lethargies, rheums in the nostrils, hoarseness, cough, pain of the breast, sides and loins, verrigos, apoplexies.

Cook. This aphorism and the former concerning the seasons, are to be understood when they hold their own temperature.

Ed. True.

19. Hip. When the summer is like the spring, expect much sweating in fevers.

Cook. For the time of the year doth not only beget morbific matter, but also inclines those juices to various crisis, periods or fits; now the sweats are either critical, or symptomatical, from the strength of the disease and abundance of excrementitious humors.

Ed. Mere talk.

20. Hip. Summer being dry and the wind northerly; autumn full of rain and the wind southerly, vehement pains of the head are to be expected in the winter following; also coughs, hoarseness, rheums distilling at the nostrils, and to some consumptions.

Cook. Here he speaks of diseases to be expected: as for tabes, it is from putrid phlegm falling into the lungs, for which make an issue.

Ed. This aphorism would lead us to suppose, that whatever quality of winter follows, those diseases may be expected, which is wrong; for if a mild dry winter follows they may not be expected.

21. Hip. Among the parts of the year, if the winter be extraordinary dry, and the spring very rainy and subject to southerly winds, there necessarily falls out in summer sharp agues, ophthalmies and dysenteries, especially in women and men of moist natures.

Cook. By reason of abundance of humors, which are subject to putrefaction.

Ed. This has some reason in it, from the humidity of spring, but not from

the previous dryness of winter. The hot sun operating on the moist earth, affects the air.

22. Hip. Contrary, if winter be southerly, full of rain and warm, the spring dry and northerly; women whose child-birth happens near the spring, do upon the least occasion suffer abortion; or, if delivered at due time, they bring forth such weakly and sickly children, that either they die quickly, or live but weakly and sickly. To others happen dysenteries, dry ophthalmies, to old men rheumes, which shortly kill them.

Cook. These seasons being the parent of phlegm, and phlegm of the said diseases; and the more it abounds in the aged, the more suddenly it destroys them.

Ed. All nonsense.

23. Hip. Northerly and dry autumns are profitable and good to men and women of a moist temperament; to others it causes opthalmies, fevers, partly sharp, and partly long, and some also are troubled with melancholy.

Cook. What advantages and diseases come in harvest when dry and northerly, how to know the temperament, how to know and cure the diseases, see my work.

Ed. This aphorism is true.

LOW SPIRITS.

Low spirits, the vapours, or, as it is technically called hypochondriacal affection, is a peculiar state of the mind brought on by indigestion, in which the greatest possible evils are expected and dreaded upon the most trifling grounds, and frequently without any cause whatsoever. It is that state of mind which, in nine cases out of ten, immediately precedes suicide, and perhaps in nearly the same proportion is the cause of it. The patient, although perfectly rational upon every other point except his disease, will not even by the most powerful arguments be convinced that his fears are either unfounded or overcharged. Misery and horror are the guides of his way, and his goal is the grave, at which he first starts, but to which he soon unwillingly hastens. A case in all its true colouring is detailed in page 215 of the *Medical Adviser*, by the patient himself, our correspondent, and no medical man could describe the symptoms with such effect—it is a true picture.

Low spirits is the immediate offspring of indigestion, or rather one of the advanced stages of it in certain habits, particularly in advanced life. People of a melancholic or religious temperament are most liable to it, and it is most effective in winter and in rainy or dull weather.

Writers upon this disease have set down the causes to a torpid state of the nervous system, and a want of the *vis vitæ* in the brain, brought on by long and deep application to study, or of the lasting remembrance of some misfortune; inactivity of life, excessive venery, bad and unwholesome food, and excessive evacuations. These certainly are original causes; but they do not immediately produce the disease: they first establish indigestion, and from that comes hypochondria. From this it will appear totally unnecessary for us to consider its prevention and cure in the *early* stages; as those are treated upon under the head of Indigestion. We shall examine it after it has passed the stage of confirmed indigestion and established itself fully as low spirits.

It is a curious fact, that this disease is contagious; persons have been known to have become affected with it, from living constantly with hypochondriacs; or a perhaps misconceived system of terror, which some religious preachers inculcate, goes far in bringing on the disease. We once attended the religious roarings of an American methodist preacher, named Lorenzo Doe, and have seen several females thrown into hysterics by the excess of his zeal in the sytem of terror; and we have no doubt that this clergyman made more hypochondriacs than a foggy winter. Is it religion to shorten our days by the pursuit of it? Can we not adore our Maker with cheerful hearts? Is not the divine power represented to be all merciful and all good? Why then terrify the sinners with the picture of the Deity most terrific? We trust we are not stepping out of our way in thus observing that such a system is a cause

of disease—we humbly think ourselves right in remarking upon it. And while we are on this part of the subject, lest we should forget it, we say that all dyspeptic and nervous persons, and indeed every one who is mindful of health, should avoid *roaring* preachers as they would hard boiled dumplings, or dough boys.

The symptoms of hypochondria are numerous: the patient will tell us that he feels all the diseases of the catalogue; however, those which he really possesses are flatulency, flying-pains in the abdomen, frequent and heavy sighing, excessive dejection of mind, "every one," he says, "is happy but him;" want of sleep, night-mare, pale and suffering countenance, dread of every thing, palpitation of the heart, tremblings, weeping, fear, and wish for death; in short every one of the miserable train of nervous affections may be present in this disease.

In the very extreme stage of hypochondria, the patient becomes so far deranged in his understanding as to fancy himself all kind of things: and a case detailed, in one of our earlier numbers, about a Frenchman who fancied he contained fire, and would blow up at a certain hour, is a full example.

Patients in almost every disease, at least those attended with any degree of increased vascular action or fever, feel themselves worse towards evening and at night than in the morning: with hypochondriacs it is the reverse; they waken in the morning from an unrefreshing sleep, with the most horrific feelings, misery and death staring them in the face. They arise, mope about in melancholy for the early part of the day, shunning all human intercourse, and gradually recover a better tone of spirits towards evening, which advances to almost a remission of the symptoms; and they sit up late, always feeling reluctant to return to that bed from which they can feel no refreshment in sleep.

The disease is not to be considered dangerous; at least unless it produces others, which is but too frequent. These diseases, however, we think it only right not to mention; for if we did, our hypochondriac readers might, perhaps, begin to fancy that they possessed every one of them.

Women are not so liable to the disease as men; hysterical affections being more frequently the consequence produced by fretting, application of mind, &c. in the same degree as hypochondria in men, and hence we have more suicides amongst the latter.

(The treatment in our next.)

FAINTING.

Habitual fainting is generally a symptom of hysteria; women are most subject to it. It is frequently preceded by an almost indescribable sensation at the pit of the stomach, a sense of fulness rising towards the head, and dimness of sight. The fainting comes on and often terminates with convulsions, or epilepsy, or vomiting.

The great causes are, oppression of the mind from fretting, suppression of, or excess in the periodical affection, and organic derangement of the heart or great blood-vessels. Fainting often proceeds from bleeding and from beholding unpleasant sights.

During the fit the nostrils must be stimulated by smelling salts, and cold water sprinkled over the face and breast, and free air allowed. If the fainting be from loss of blood, and indeed in all cases, the patient should be placed upon the back, without any elevation of the head. A little hot wine put into the mouth when the patient can swallow will be the best thing.

People who are in the habit of fainting should carry smelling salts, and a small phial, containing half an ounce of white wine, to which has been added five drops of spirit of ammonia, and thirty of the compound spirits of lavender. This should be swallowed when the fit is approaching and it will often prevent it.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

The juice of ground ivy snuffed up the nose for head-ache—very doubtful, but harmless.

To remove Pimples from the Face.

Dissolve common salt in the juice of lemons, and with a linen cloth apply it to the parts affected.

It is said, that this will succeed in a few days. We think it may be safely tried.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

A Draught for hysterical Women.

Thirty drops, compound spirit of lavender,
Half a drachm of tincture of bark,
Half an ounce of cinnamon water, sweetened with syrup of saffron.

Dyspeptic Bolus.

Ten grains of ginger,
Ten grains of rhubarb, made into a bolus with conserve of roses, or currant jam.—To be taken in the middle of the day occasionally.

*** *Freidburg of Paternoster Row shall ornament our Quack Corner next week.*

CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I WAS perusing Knox's Essays a few days since, and was most forcibly struck with the following lines:—"The progress of empirical fame and success is easily traced, though not easily retarded. A powerful medicine is exhibited to some wretched individual, whose indigence induces him to be grateful for the notice and assistance of the ignorant. If his complaint is removed, as it might otherwise have been by the silent operation of time, he is triumphantly dragged forth to the public view, and his name is added to attest the wonderful efficacy of the pretender's nostrum. The regular practitioner is insulted. Facts speak for themselves, and even men of sense hear and believe. The gaping crowd press around the mountebank, and swallow the dose of death with avidity, led on by the sunshine of delusive hope, like the poor fluttering insect that is allured to its own destruction by a deceitful blaze." How nobly and admirably has this beautiful author struck at the very root of quackery. Would to God that every honest man, like him, would give their aid to the destruction of all quack doctors; it would be the greatest benefit to society, and the most honourable deed on record. There is Jordan, a more fraudulent fellow never disgraced the name of man. At the time he was boasting, near Wellclose-square, of the unparalleled cures he had performed, a friend of mine, who was then troubled with an itching at the abdomen, applied to him for relief, and no sooner was the purport of his visit made known, than Mr. penshil and shealing-vax vender informed him it was the venereal in its worst stage, and demanded one guinea. Suffice it then to say, that in five days, £2 17*s.* was exacted from him, without deriving the least benefit from the medicine he received. The gravity with which Jordan spoke of confirmed lues so alarmed my friend, that he made his case known to an apothecary, who no sooner examined the parts, than he declared it to be nothing worse than what are vulgarly called crabs. Thus, Mr. Editor, you can see how this infernal empiric plunders the unwary, not only of their cash, but their health. Should you doubt this statement, I assure you none would be more willing to give you any further intelligence on this head, and, I may add, none more gratified to meet Jordan in a court of equity to prove what I have said, than

Your humble servant,

J. FRANCIS.

May 12, 1824.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

BELIEVING that the complaint called *polypus* has generally been found difficult of cure, I send you the following case, thinking it may contribute to the utility of your valuable publication.

A woman, who I perfectly well knew in the country, had been for some considerable time afflicted with a polypus, and got admitted into the county infirmary. She underwent a severe operation, which effected but little good; and the surgeons had sent to London for some particular instruments to perform further operations;

but before they arrived, the woman, with much anxiety, quitted the infirmary. Some of her acquaintance now advised her to apply a bit of *lint dipped in strong brandy*; this she did, by thrusting it into the nostril, and was soon cured. This application, of course, should be repeated every two or three hours; that is, by replacing the old with new. Hoping this may be serviceable, at same time I remain

Your humble servant,

HENRICUS.

We recommend this remedy as it can do no harm. The application should be often repeated.—ED.



MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Lord Byron.—The melancholy fate of this glorious young man, it appears, was occasioned by that spirit of contempt for established rules of minor men, and too much confidence in his own mind. He would not permit the prudent attendants to bleed him. There is, notwithstanding, blame to be attached to them for not treating him with *substitutes* for phlebotomy, which they could have easily done if they were not ignorant. It is heart-rending to think that such a mighty mind as Lord Byron's should hang upon the little finger of a physician. Rheumatic fever, or inflammation, we broadly state, should *never prove fatal in a young man*, when treated with medical judgment.

"*Doctor*" *M'Donald, the Kent-road Quack*, has put an advertisement in the last number of the *Sunday Times*, in which he declares his intention to prosecute us *forthwith*, and avails himself of puffing off by enumerating a string of courses of lectures, which he says he attended. Courtenay attempted the same thing; and no doubt Eady, Cameron, and Jordan, would tell us what *numerous* lectures they attended. We again state, that he is no regular practitioner, but a *bread, beer and cheese quack*—a twopenny ticket fellow—a most arrant humbugger. We flinch not—our side is that of the public, the blistered and cauterized public—We advocate the cause of suffering, worn out, ruined constitutions, in attacking the Quacks, and are ready to meet all consequences.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. W. S. will oblige us in his telling us when to see him.—It is about M'Donald.

The mode which *Amicus* is pursuing is not right. Let him live on animal food, and leave slops alone. A little wine daily would serve him, and let him attend to the regularity of his bowels; rhubarb and ginger occasionally.

Let A CONSTANT READER take every night, or second night, five grains of squill pill, and five grains of blue pill, for a week.

In reply to G. G. we say, that we inserted the article, not against "religious affairs," but against those clergymen who so far forget themselves as to puff quacks. That old hypocrite, Gardner, the worm bottler, says, that he is recommended by 900 preachers!!—Shameful.

G. T. M. Yes. Let him send his case.

H. G. of Cambridge may have our opinion by sending an address.

A numerous list of Answers to Correspondents must unavoidably be over—those which have addresses are answered privately.

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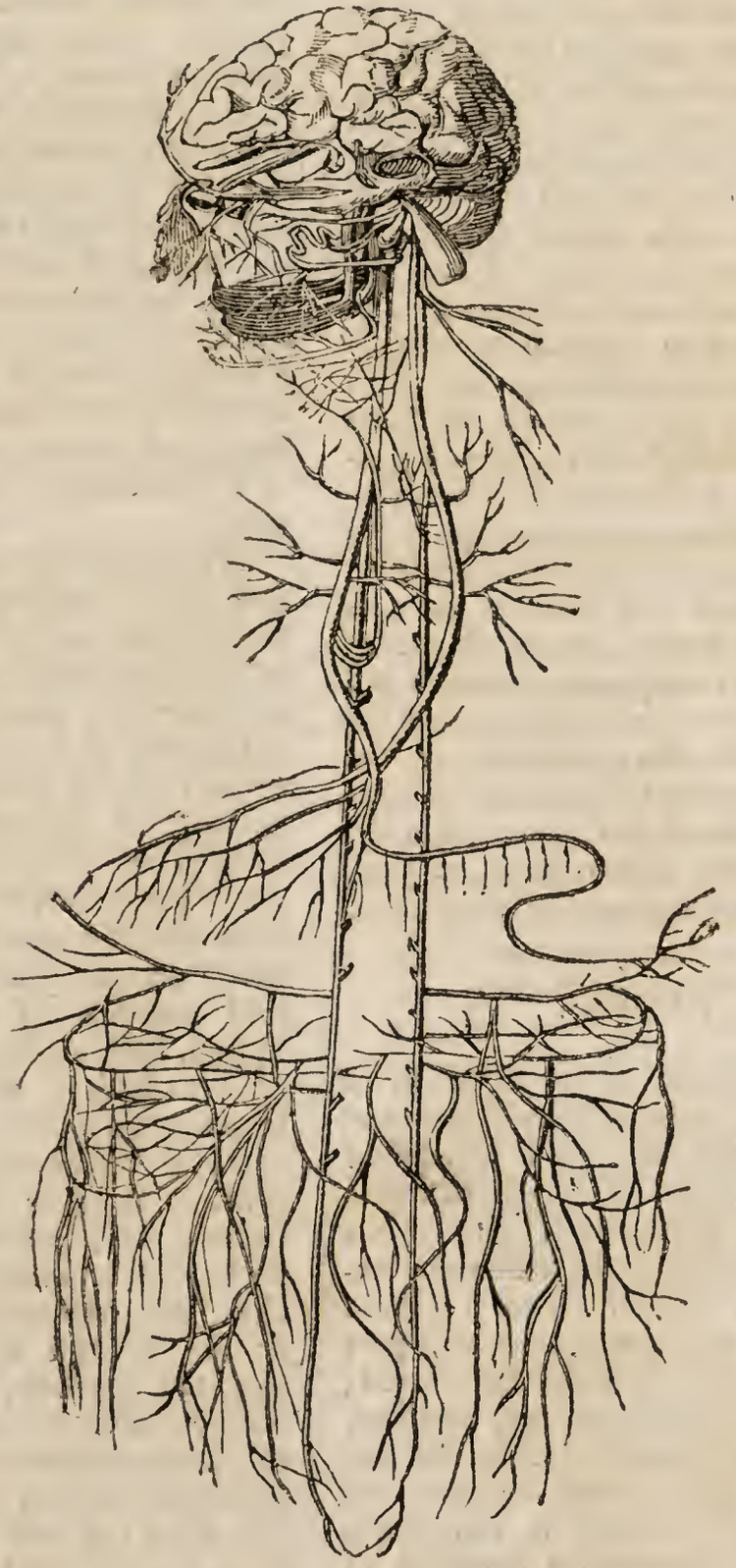
MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, M.D.

No. 26.] SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1824. [Price 3d.



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THE MIND AND NERVES, AS CONNECTED WITH INDIGESTION.

We are now able to reply to our correspondent Enion Mon, whose letter is inserted p. 366. He demands of us how we "can reconcile the theory of indigestion proceeding from a weakness of mind, when it is notorious that among dyspeptic persons may be classed the greatest geniuses?" Our correspondent must not think that we meant weakness in the action of the mind in performing its functions of thought; we perhaps should have been more clear if we had said weakness of *the nerves*. We meant a physical weakness brought on by the very exertion of the mind, so essential in men of study, and so constant an attendant upon men of genius. An over action of any of the animal functions is always attended with a proportionate debility, and hence follows debility of the acting or physical power of the mind when thought is excessive. In our plate of this number may be seen the par vagum, or eighth pair of nerves, which supply the stomach and liver with sensation, arising out of the brain *direct*, thus establishing the closest connection, and hence the immediate effects of the mind upon the stomach. Our observations in page 326, will further illustrate this opinion.

HERPES.

Herpes consists in an eruption of broad itchy spots, dispersed here and there over the skin, of a whitish or red colour, which at length run into each other, discharge a thin serous fluid; and either form extensive excoriations or ulcers. After a certain time, scurfy scales appear, which peel off, and leave the under surface red; the same appearances are, however, renewed in a successive series, till the disease is either cured or goes off spontaneously, which is rarely the case; being a complaint confined to the skin, it seldom happens that the general health suffers any great change.

Its causes may be referred to a want of cleanliness, a low diet, and a damp situation; but, certain constitution seem, nevertheless, particularly predisposed to herpetic eruptions.

The best remedies for these eruptions, are the following ointments.—Take oxyd of zinc, half a drachm, prepared lard, one ounce, mix them; or, take ointment of the white precipitate of mercury, making use at the same time, of the lotions following, being somewhat similar to the nostrum sold under the name of Gowland's Lotion. Take ointment of the nitrate of mercury, or take bitter almonds, blanched, two ounces; bruise them in a mortar, then gradually add distilled water, one pint, strain the liquor, and make an addition to it of oxymuriate of mercury, twelve grains, which has been dissolved in rectified spirit, two drachms—mix for a lotion; a strong decoction of the fresh leaves of digitalis has been found to be a very good wash for herpetic eruptions of a troublesome and extensive nature.

When the disease is inveterate, it may be necessary to have recourse to the internal use of medicine, as pills of the following.—Take submuriate of mercury, precipitated sulphur of antimony, of each one drachm; guiacum resin, in powder, two drachms; balsam of copaiba, a sufficiency to form the mass; let sixty pills be made out of this, of which from one to three may be taken every night at bed time: or, take mercurial pill, antimonial powder, of each two grains; opium, half a grain; syrup, a sufficiency to form a pill, which is to be taken every night. A solution of hydrargyri oxymurias, the liquor arsenicalis, in the dose of six drops, three times a day, increasing it gradually to twelve or fifteen; a decoction of elm bark, sarsaparilla, or guiacum; or the mineral acids, as sulphuric acid, two drachms, add gradually pure water, one ounce and a half, after the effervescence has ceased, make an addition of common syrup, two drachms, mix them; of this let the patient take from sixty to one hundred and twenty drops, twice or thrice a day, in a teacup full of water; and live on a vegetable and milk diet, at least avoiding all salted meats; some gentle aperients may be taken occasionally.

A severe case of herpes, which had resisted various means, was at last perfectly removed, in a comparatively small period, by giving the patient twenty drops of the oxygenated muriatic acid internally, three times a day, gradually increasing the dose, using at the same time, frequently through the day, a lotion composed of two drachms of the solution of potass, in a pint of water; its strength was at last augmented to three drachms.

The effects of a tepid bath, in promoting the natural exudations by the skin, render it very servicable in curing herpetic eruptions; indeed, in all cases of cutaneous foulness, it will be found a most important auxiliary to internal remedies. A bath prepared from, or saturated with the sulphuret of potass, has been employed with great success in the cure of herpes.

TREATMENT OF LOW SPIRITS.

In our last we described this disease; we now proceed to its treatment. In the first place, then, the plan laid down by us in our 22d Number for the cure and prevention of indigestion, should be strictly followed, and in addition to it, the patient may occasionally take a warm bath in the evening. He should also enter convivial society, and take a moderate portion of wine; which, if the plan above alluded to be followed, will serve him very much; but intoxication must not be allowed. Here, too, is a disease that smoking tobacco, if agreeable, will benefit considerably. Riding on horseback, too, will be greatly beneficial; but then the patient must not mount a horse merely to go and ride—he must have an object in view—he must have a certain place to go to, either as a visitor or on business; for riding upon a road, merely for that ride, will be found to fatigue the mind instead of refresh it. Travelling also is attended with the best effects, on account of the variety of occurrences operating in keeping the mind from unhappy reflections. Opium should be avoided; but if sleep be wanting, about five drops of solution of the acetate of morphine should be taken at night, as this medicine will not produce the bad effects of opium,

There are more hypochondriacs than people imagine; bad cases of indigestion are generally somewhat affected by the disease, and the basis of the treatment must be that for indigestion.

APHORISMS OF HIPPOCRATES.

Continued.

WINDS.

1. Hip. That of the south dulls the hearing, obscures and darkens the sight, offends the head with aches and rheums, procures and causes heaviness and faintness of the members; when, therefore, it blows often, such things are incident to the weak and sickly. Contrariwise, the north wind causeth coughs, diseases in the jaws, hardens the belly, suppresseth urine, stirs up cold shiverings and shakings, engendereth pain of the sides and breast; therefore when that wind bears sway, they that are weak and feeble must expect such accidents.

Cook. Wind is nothing but the motion of the air, whose mutations produce diseases; the south, by reason is hot and moist, the north, because cold and dry.

2. Hip. Daily seasons of weather being northerly, do close and strengthen the body, and make it nimble, well-coloured, and quick of hearing; dry and harden the belly, but bite and offend the eyes: and if any pain have possessed the breast, they make it more grievous. Contrary, southerly seasons loose and moisten the body and weaken it; dull the hearing, cause heaviness and giddiness of the head, mistiness and dimness of the eyes, dulness and laziness of the body, and makes the belly loose.

Cook The former comment may serve.

Ed. These aphorisms might apply to the country of Hippocrates, but not to ours. Cook says nothing.

3. Hip. Of all the seasons throughout the year, dryness and droughts are more wholesome, and less dangerous to man's life, than daily showers and moisture.

Cook. If diseases be in such a season, it is rather from ill diet than the dry season.

Ed. Here Cook comes nearer to reason than Hippocrates.

4. Hip. When there is much rain, these diseases are for most part ingendered, viz. long continued agues, fluxes of the belly, corruption of the humors, epilepsie, apoplexy, quinsie; but when there is much drought, there happens phthisis, rheums in the eyes, pains of the joints, difficulty of making urine, and passions of the guts and inward parts.

Cook. The explanation and curing of all these diseases are elsewhere.

5. Hip. Sharp agues are ingendered by great droughts and dryness: and if the year prove for most part such; as the state of the season is, such kind of diseases for most part must be expected,

Cook. Sharp agues are such as quickly end, but have heavy and troublesome symptoms. To conclude, the more serene the days are, the more healthful; the less clear and rainy, the more deadly.

Ed. For the most part these aphorisms will bear reasoning.

OF AGES.

6. Hip. Greatness and tallness of body is comely in young age; but to old it is unprofitable, and worse than a short stature.

Cook. For it burdens old age, and makes them crook't-back't, and the condition and change of the body by age, draws on difficulty in carrying.

Ed. This is only where age causes considerable debility; at the same time it is a reasonable aphorism.

7. Hip. As touching seasons of the year; in the spring and beginning of summer, children and those near their age live in very good health; in summer and some part of autumn old men live best; in the rest of autumn and winter, those of middle age.

Cook. Summer is good for old men by reason of their cold natures; winter for men in strength, because it abates, and is contrary to their bilious temper,

Ed. True.

8. Hip. As to ages, these diseases befall little children, and lately born, viz. ulcers in the mouth, vomiting, cough, want of sleep, great fevers, inflammation of the nave, moist running of the ears.

In the time of toothing, there is itching of the gums, fever, convulsion, fluxes of the belly, especially when they bring forth their dog-teeth, especially in those children more fat, and that have their belly bound.

Cook. The diseases in the former aphorism are by reason of the brains moistness, and the abundance of excrements flowing thence, and are healthful. As to this, their teething is usually at seven months of age, and sometimes at four. The dog teeth at a year, or ten months.

Ed. The aphorism is reasonable; but Cook's "*moistness of the brain*" proves him to have been a soft-headed commentator.

9. Hip. When children are a little elder, they are subject to the inflammation of the almonds, dislocation of the vertebras in the nape of the neck inwardly, shortness of breath, breeding of the stone, round worms, ascarides, hanging warts, satyrismus, stranguries, schrophulas, and other risings, especially those before declared.

Cook. These happen after teething to twelve or fourteen years of age. See on wind, Aph. 3.

Ed. True.

10. Hip. Moreover to those greater, and come to ripe age, there happen many of those former diseases, but more long continuing; continuing agues, and fluxes of blood at the nostrils.

Cook. That is, from 12, or 14, to 17. See crisis, N. 7.

Ed. True.

11. Hip. To young men happens spitting of blood, phthisis, acute fevers, epilepsies, and other diseases, especially those before rehearsed.

Cook. That's when the voice breaks, and they begin to speak big, being about the 25th year.

Ed. True; except the voice breaking at the 25th year—it breaks generally about the 16th or 17th year.

12. Hip. Consumptions are chiefly in that age from 18 to 35.

Cook. Not only by reason of their perfect age, and so they increase not, but because they abound in blood, and labour of a plethora, whence the vessels of the blood may be broke, eroded or open'd, and so the lungs ulcerated.

Ed. The aphorism is true, and Cook is reasonable.

13. Hip. Those past young age are subject to asthmas, diseases of the sides, inflammation of the lungs, lethargies, phrenzy, burning fever, long fluxes of the belly, cholera, dysentry, lientery and hæmorrhoids.

Cook. That's from 35 to 55 years.

Ed. True.

14. Hip. To old age happens difficulty of breathing, destillations with cough, strangury, dysuria, pains of the joints, of the reins, vertigo, apoplexy, ill habit, watching, excrements of the belly, eyes and nose, dimness of sight, and dullness of hearing.

Cook. Old age is threefold: see institutions.

15. Hip. For the most part old men are not so often sick as young are, but being once taken with long diseases, they commonly die.

Cook. Old men are presum'd to be more discreet and temperate in their feeding; for otherwise they are more subject to sickness than young men, being weaker than they.

Ed. All true, but more truths might be added; it is telling what occurs, but not *all that may occur*.

DISQUALIFICATION FOR THE MATRIMONIAL STATE.

"These may be either moral or physical. Into the former, with reference to this particular application, there can hardly be occasion to enquire; and it may never happen to the medical practitioner to be called into the Ecclesiastical Court, on a case of unsoundness or deficiency of intellectual vigour.

"Our observations will therefore be confined to physical incapacities. These may furnish questions of the most important, and of a very intricate nature. They do not the less belong to the forensic duties of the physician, because occasions for their exercise are, in this country, apparently rare, and our tribunals do not resound with the eclat that would of course attend the public agitation of such matters. They are conducted with all possible quietness and privacy; and the reporting of their proceedings is discouraged. It is also true that, in these times, or at least in this country, the real occurrence of such pleas is not frequent; but the medical practitioner is often applied to on the fitness of individuals for entering the conjugal state, and also for assistance to remedy evils that till the connexion was formed had not been discovered, or not duly estimated.

"The ostensible end of this compact is the continuation of the species; and though, perhaps, during the prior steps towards matrimonial engagements, this may be comparatively seldom the immediate impulse, yet after the connection is actually formed, should this consequence not follow, the happiness of the connubial state would, in most instances, be impaired; and it has been singly matter of so serious a nature as to urge individuals to seek the dissolution of the connection, in order to form another, by which the desired object might be accomplished.

"Persons, however, frequently enter into this connection, not only without any view of obtaining the happiness of personal offspring, but seriously desirous of escaping such a consequence. Interest; a desire to avoid solitary existence; the want of those attentions which none but a female can bestow under impaired health, and a variety of other motives, which I may spare the trouble of enumerating, not unfrequently lead men into the matrimonial state, when there is neither the wish nor the prospect of offspring; nor is the fair partner always blind to other considerations than those of love and maternity. How far, under such circumstances, marriage is approved of in the eye of its founder, belongs not to me to enquire. But where the known state of the parties warrants the anticipation of unfruitfulness, theologians have loudly disapproved of the engagement, as being incompatible with the intention of the divine institute; while others have allowed it on the plea *fornicationis evitandæ*.

"To come, however, to the details upon which we have to enter, the physical impediments to the matrimonial connection resolve themselves into three kinds—*impotence, sterility and diseases*.

IMPOTENCE.

This is simply incapacity for the act of copulation. It may exist on the part of the man, or of the woman; but in the great majority of instances on record it has been alleged against the former; and though not a very frequent event in either sex, we must still suppose it to be comparatively rare in the female. Let us advert to its existence first on the part of the male.

We shall assume it to be necessary that the act of coition must precede procreation. To effect this on the part of the male, he must possess all the organs of generation, and they must be capable of performing their functions. Admitting this, it follows, that a man without a penis, or without testes, is *ineptus ad coitum*.

A well known term for such persons (who have been sufficiently numerous to furnish ample means of illustration) is that of eunuchs, and these are commonly considered necessarily *inepti quoad matrimonium*. But even among them there seems to have been considerable difference of powers in respect to the function in question.

They may be separated into several descriptions, one of which has been of great account in the East from the earliest ages: being selected for the care of the females, and, as the natural consequence of their situation, occupying places of high trust and honour about the courts of Oriental Sovereigns. Males being preferred to women for this trust, it was deemed a necessary precaution to render them incapable of contributing to the irregular indulgencies they were intended to prevent; and they were accordingly deprived of those organs that constituted the faculty of *procreation* at least, if not of sexual attempts of a less perfect nature. In the first instance, we are informed that the masculine efficiency was destroyed by bruising the testes (a method of castration still pursued in some places with regard to animals) and destroying their functionary powers along with their organization. Instances of generating, however, seem to have occurred among eunuchs made in this manner, and are explained on the supposition that part of the testes, continuing uninjured, was still capable of preparing the necessary secretion, and furnishing it to a certain extent. Recourse was then had to total extirpation: but even this did not prove satisfactory; and whether from such an inference regarding the office of the testes as that drawn by Aristotle, or in order to prevent the indulgence alluded to by Juvenal, the custom was resorted to of abstracting the penis also.

Another class of eunuchs are those who are reduced to that state for the gratification of the lovers of music: the consequence of the seminal œconomy being thus superseded is the acquisition of a rich voice, of a quality not frequently met with among the male sex. This practice is perhaps confined within very narrow limits, and unknown to this country, except by the occasional display of its consequences in the person of the castrato. Eunuchs again may be created by wounds, or other injuries, in those who have long possessed their masculine properties in full perfection. The testes may be destroyed by weapons, or may be extirpated on account of disease, and there are even some disorders that waste them away.

I presume it would be a legal plea for the dissolution of marriage that a woman had been deceived into it with a eunuch. It may therefore become our duty to verify the want of testes by inspection. If they have been abstracted, there will be little difficulty in ascertaining that fact; but under the allegation that they have never existed, and the discovery that there is an empty and imperfect scrotum, what is to be our conclusion? Certainly the probable one would be that they have never descended from the cavity of the abdomen; an event of which there are many instances on record. In such a case, I presume we are more likely to be consulted by the person himself before marriage, than in consequence of any process that might be instituted on the part of a female afterwards. There certainly have been instances of great apprehension in the minds of young men who have been situated in this manner; and one, which led to the

death of the individual by his own act, is pretty generally known among those who have studied surgery of late years in London. In this instance it is the opinion of eminent authority that the apprehension as to impotence was not well founded. In such a case the criterion that offers itself is obvious; and practitioners must be guided in their suggestions by the nature of circumstances, and their own moral views, together with those of the individual.

Three things are necessary to constitute the act of copulation on the part of the man—*erectio ac intromissio penis, cum emissione seminis.* If there be no secretion of semen, as where testes are totally wanting, emission of course cannot take place, therefore the want of these organs constitutes impotence: but it must be the absolute, the total want of them. Disease (unless of such a nature, and to such an extent as to require their extirpation) will not establish the plea of impotence. It may not only be partial, but curable; or, even where generally affecting the organic structure, we cannot well, without the aid of corroborative evidence, declare that the function of secretion is for ever stopped. It is also unquestionable that a *spado*, a person with one testicle only, may perform the office of fecundation without any imperfection deducible from the result; and it should be observed, that where no known event has deprived a man of a testicle, and one only appears in *scroto*, the other may be in the abdomen.

The distinction as to the force of the plea for dissolution of matrimony on the score of testicles being *removed*, or, in more general terms, a man becoming impotent *after* marriage, is no part of our business. The relations of the event must be proved by other evidence than that of anatomical inspection.

INFANTICIDE.

While abortion relates to the destruction of the immature fœtus, or of the embryo, this regards the destruction of the child after it has been separated from the womb, having attained a sufficient degree of strength and developement, to be able to maintain its existence independently, under the usual aids required in infancy.

Whatever obscurity, mistake, or uncertainty may have existed as to the criminality of procuring the separation of the embryo from the womb of the mother, the murder of a child newly born, or about to be born, has in most codes of jurisprudence been denounced as criminal; and has not only been visited with severe punishment when proved, but until very lately, in our own country, was punishable with death, where only presumed.

By a law passed in the 21st year of the reign of King James I., it was enacted, that concealment of the birth of a child, which, if born alive, would have been a bastard, was to be accounted satisfactory proof of murder against the mother; and the evidence of one witness, at least, was required to establish the fact of such a child having been born dead.

In the 43d year of his late Majesty, however, this law, which, by its extreme severity, seems to have defeated the purpose of its enactment, was repealed; and the trials of women in England and Ireland, charged with the death of their illegitimate offspring, are to be conducted upon the same principles as other trials for murder; the jury, in cases of acquittal on that charge, having the power of finding, if made out in evidence, the fact of concealment of birth, for which the court may adjudge the accused to two years imprisonment. In cases where the murder is proved, the punishment still is death. To prove concealment of birth, it may be sufficient to ascertain that there has been a pregnancy, or a delivery: to establish the guilt of child murder, the body of the infant supposed to be murdered must be found.

Notwithstanding the number of instances in which unfounded accusations are certainly made, the crime is one of too frequent occurrence. If we consider the outrage that is done to the best feelings of human nature, the absence of that affection in the female breast, quoted as proverbial even in holy writ, the want of all excuse on the score of provocation, and of sti-

mulus of plunder or gain, and add the consideration that the victim would never have existed but for an excess of the tenderest attachment at a former period, the change that must take place in the mind of the woman might appear incredible.

But so many of the tenderest of the sex have committed such a deed, that we hardly know upon which there is more claim, our pity or abhorrence.

If we consider that the paramount object of solicitude to every woman not abandoned, is the reputation of chastity, without which a female is of no account in society; and the penalty, (to a rightly constructed mind, worse than death) attendant on the discovered loss of that jewel—a secret which a living consequence alone perhaps can reveal—we may lessen our wonder that concealment, even by unfair means, if they appear to be the most effectual, should be attempted. I agree with Dr. Hunter, that this deed is frequently the result of insanity, and I would add my persuasion that a verdict to this effect might be returned in many cases of this kind, with at least as much truth as in some of suicide. It must not be urged that the insanity here is not real because temporary, so long as temporary insanity is readily admitted in the other case; and we know well that in many instances of the like state of mind, where suicide is unsuccessfully attempted, the supposed lunacy shortly disappears. This plea, however, rarely avails the child-murderer; and yet if the loss of property, or even minor misfortunes, are to be considered sufficient causes of insanity where there is no direct evidence of the fact, and the *feelings* arising from which excuse that deed, are we to give a modest female, (one that has probably erred through excess of confidence, and all the better sympathies of attachment towards a villainous deceiver) no credit for despair, for distraction, under the anticipation of the irremediable infamy that approaches her?

If the practitioner reflects for a moment on the common propensity to exaggerate allegations, and construe suspicion into certainty, he will be in no danger of receiving an improper bias in undertaking investigations of this nature. The unthinking part of society delight in what is extraordinary, and feel a perverse interest in things that are necessarily odious to the enlightened; in fact, events that must be painful to the reflecting and liberal-minded, seem to give them pleasure. It is unnecessary to obtrude any formal exhortation to my professional brethren, not to be led away by popular outcry; they ought to be men as much divested of mobility of this sort as any in society; and should even studiously maintain a temper of mind and habit of thinking becoming their important functions.

There are certain considerations, however, of a moral nature connected with allegations of infanticide, which the practitioner should not overlook. The natural affection of a woman for her offspring, is paramount to every other feeling; and often, with the utmost abhorrence of the man by whom she has incurred the pain and ignominy of illegitimate fruitfulness, and been treated in the most unfeeling manner, she entertains as deep-rooted an affection for the unfortunate evidence of her imprudence, as it would be her pride as well as her duty to display under happier circumstances. In taking away the life of her child, she is driven to the commission of so unnatural a crime, that we ought perhaps to be ready to admit of mitigating circumstances in many instances. The law allows of none, where the crime has been committed. It is not here (as it may be in killing a grown up person) that there was provocation urging to ungovernable fury, or that one's own life was threatened and in danger, or that an accident occurred from fire arms, or other chance medley. The new-born infant cannot be connected with any such influence. But a new-born child may actually die a violent death, and such an account be offered in explanation as our knowledge of the economy of human parturition must not only allow to be possible, but even to be true.

Concealment of birth is a frequent occurrence; and in such cases it may be just to surmise the worst. But if we admit the possibility of a woman being delivered in solitude,

without any such intention on her own part, and being delivered of a still-born child, what *moral* criminality will follow her resolving to conceal her disgrace, since no one can be thereby injured? A young female, who knows nothing of such matters, and to whom reputation is every thing, has reason to suspect herself to be with child. As yet it cannot be more than suspicion, why should she rashly confide the secret of her shame to those who would be the first perhaps to take advantage of such confidence to ruin her? Time, however, confirms her unhappy surmises, and she is perplexed about the result. She has no friend to whom she can reveal her situation, or if she has a confidant of her own sex, the revelation even to her must be a severe misfortune, as she will thereby injure herself in that person's opinion; for women are, in this matter, proverbially uncharitable. Shall she impart it to one of ours? That is quite out of the question. She resolves at length to make what preparation she can to meet the urgency of the moment when it shall arrive; and then, when concealment is no longer practicable, she will apply in a quarter where she can get the necessary aid. Sooner than this it seems quite unnecessary to announce the event, and it would be to the last degree repugnant. Such being her plan, she pursues it till unexpectedly overtaken with the pains of labour, in a situation where no assistance can be obtained, or by a process so rapid, that it would be impossible to avail herself of any, if at hand. She finds herself delivered of a dead child, and the success of previous concealment encourages the hope that if she can hide the traces of what has now happened, her reputation will be saved, while no one can be injured. Circumstances, however, lead to suspicion; search is made; the child is found; an accusation of infanticide is set up; the coroner holds an inquest; all the mouths of the neighbourhood are in full cry; an apprentice from the nearest apothecary's shop first mangles the body of the infant, and then the evidence that ought to be obtained from it; the jury, knowing that they cannot hang her, and under estimating all other considerations, send her to gaol, by stating on oath, that twelve of them at least believe she has committed murder. If this takes place in London she may be brought to trial shortly; but if in the country she may be consigned to the horrors of a prison for months. Sooner or later, however, a true bill is found by the grand inquest, and she is finally produced before the petty jury, with whom rests the issue. Some question is put to a medical practitioner as speedily as possible, which he either cannot answer, or so answers as to leave the question of murder in doubt. The judge informs the jury that there is no evidence of the child having been born alive, and directs them to acquit her of the capital charge, and find her guilty of the misdemeanour of concealing the birth. This being done, she resumes her abode in jail, and at the end of her imprisonment, may come out in any state as to character that may happen to be the consequence of her recent mode of life—to her it can make little difference, she is worthless, and will be scouted by all those who have had better luck: and this is the tale of the majority of cases called *infanticide*—this is a story of love.

The relations of this subject to the duties of the medical practitioner are very important. It is obscured by difficulties enough without those which have been gratuitously heaped around it. A case of this sort is one from which there is a general disposition to shrink, arising sometimes from a laudable apprehension that we may contribute to the shedding of innocent blood. Part of this a thorough examination of the subject I think will remove. But there is another reason which may operate on some, and that is the troublesome nature of the investigation. What is to follow may set this in a still stronger light; but we cannot help it.

GLOUCESTER CHEESE.

Several instances have come under our notice, in which Gloucester Cheese has been contaminated with red lead, and has produced serious consequences on being taken into the stomach. In one poisonous sample, which Mr.

Accum investigated, the evil had been caused by the sophistication of the annatto, employed for colouring cheese. This substance was found to contain a portion of red lead, a method of sophistication which has lately been confirmed by the following fact, communicated to the public by Mr. J. W. Wright, of Cambridge, and copied from the Repository of Arts, Vol. VIII. No. 47. p. 262 :—

" Your readers ought here to be told, that several instances are on record, that Gloucester and other cheeses, have been found contaminated with red lead, and that this contamination has produced serious consequences. In this instance now alluded to, and probably in all other cases, the deleterious mixture had been caused ignorantly, by the adulteration of the annatto employed for colouring the cheese. This substance, in the instance I shall relate, was found to contain a portion of red lead, a species of adulteration, which subsequent experiments have shewn to be by no means uncommon. Before I proceed further to trace this fraud to its source, I shall briefly relate the circumstance which gave rise to its detection.

" A gentleman who had occasion to reside for some time in a city, in the west of England, was one night seized with a distressing, but indescribable pain, in the region of the abdomen, and of the stomach, accompanied with a feeling of tension, which occasioned much restlessness, anxiety, and repugnance to food; he began to apprehend the access of an inflammatory disorder; but, in twenty-four hours the symptoms entirely subsided. In four days afterwards, he experienced an attack precisely similar; and he then recollected that having, on both occasions, arrived from the country late in the evening, he had ordered a plate of toasted Gloucester cheese, of which he had partaken heartily; a dish which when at home regularly served him for supper. He attributed his illness to the cheese; the circumstance was mentioned to the mistress of the Inn, who expressed great surprise, as the cheese in question was not purchased from a country dealer, but from a highly respectable shop in London. He, therefore, ascribed the before mentioned effects to some peculiarity in his constitution: a few days afterwards, he partook of the same cheese, and he had scarcely retired to rest, when a most violent cholic seized him, which lasted the whole night and part of the ensuing day; the cook was now directed, henceforth, not to serve up any toasted cheese; and he never again experienced these distressing symptoms. Whilst this matter was a subject of conversation in the house, a servant-maid mentioned, that a kitten had been violently sick after having eaten the rind cut off from the cheese, prepared for the gentleman's supper. The landlady, in consequence of this statement, ordered the cheese to be examined by a chemist, in the vicinity, who returned for answer, that the cheese was contaminated with lead! So unexpected an answer arrested general attention, and more particularly as the suspected cheese had been served up for several other customers.

" Application was therefore made by the London dealer, to the farmer who manufactured the cheese; he declared he had bought the annatto of a mercantile traveller, who had supplied him and his neighbours for years with that commodity, without giving occasion for a single complaint; on subsequent inquiries, through a circuitous channel, unnecessary to be detailed here at length, on the part of the manufacturer of the cheese, it was found, that as the supplies of annatto, had been defective and of inferior quality, recourse had been had to the expedient of colouring the commodity with vermilion; even this admixture could not be considered deleterious; but on further application being made to the druggist, who sold the article, the answer was, that the vermilion had been mixed with a portion of red lead; and the deception was held to be perfectly innocent, as frequently practised on the supposition, that the vermilion would be used only as a pigment, for house-painting. Thus the druggist sold his vermilion in the regular way of trade, adulterated with red lead, to increase his profit, without any suspicion of the use to which it would be applied; and the purchaser who adulterated the annatto, presuming

that the vermilion was genuine, had no hesitation in heightening the colour of his spurious annatto with so harmless an adjunct. Thus through the circuitous and diversified operations of commerce, a portion of deadly poison may find admission into the necessaries of life, in a way which can attach 'no criminality to the parties through whose hands it has successively passed."

This dangerous sophistication may be detected by macerating a portion of the suspected cheese, in water impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen, acidulated with muriatic acid, which will instantly cause the cheese to assume a brown or black colour, if the minutest portion of lead be present.

TOBACCO—ITS PROPERTIES, &c.

Tobacco is an annual plant, a native of America, and partially cultivated in Europe, flowering in July and August; the root is large and fibrous, and sends up an erect branching stem about four feet in height; round villous, slightly viscid, and furnished with numerous large alternate entire pointed leaves, the lowermost of which are about two feet long and four inches broad, of a pale green colour on the upper surface, and still paler underneath; the flowers are in large terminal panicles.

Tobacco was at one period raised to a considerable extent in Yorkshire; but the cultivation of it for the purposes of trade has been long prohibited, and this country, as well as the greater part of Europe, is chiefly supplied from Virginia, where the plant is cultivated in the greatest abundance. There are two varieties of this species, known by the name of Virginia tobacco, a broad and a narrow-leaved sort, but they do not differ in their medical properties. In Virginia, the plant is not allowed to attain its full height, but is topped whenever a certain number of leaves are thrown out; it is cut down in August, and the plants hung up in pairs, in sheds, to dry; after which the leaves are separated from the stem, bound up in bundles, and packed in the hogsheads in which they are exported.

The recent leaves possess very little odour or taste, but when dried, their odour is strong, narcotic, and somewhat fœtid, their taste bitter, and extremely acid; when well cured, their colour is yellowish green; they emit sparks in burning, and give out a suffocating smoke, and when distilled, yield an essential oil, of a green colour, on which their medicinal properties are supposed to depend, and which is said to be a very virulent poison. This oil is dissipated by the long coction of tobacco with water; yet in distillation with water, ether, or alcohol, no oil comes over. By infusion, however, it yields its active principles to both these fluids. Its deflagration shows the presence of nitrate of potass; and Bouillon la Grange discovered muriate of potass in its inspissated juice. According to Vauquelin, tobacco appears to contain albumen or gluten, supermuriate of lime, acetic acid, nitrate and muriate of potass, muriate of ammonia, a red matter soluble in alcohol and water, a green fecula, and a peculiar substance, on which the properties of the plant appear to depend, and which has therefore been named nicotin.

Tobacco is narcotic, sedative, emetic, diuretic, cathartic, and errhine, whether it be taken into the stomach or externally applied. The three first mentioned properties are sufficiently obvious, even from the effects which smoking or chewing it produce on persons unaccustomed to its use. These are very severe sickness, head-ache, extreme debility, cold sweats, and sometimes even convulsions. The production of such a state of the habit, however, being useful for relieving violent spasmodic constriction, tobacco is advantageously employed in obstinate constipation, ileus, suppression of urine, and incarcerated hernia, when other remedies fail of affording relief. The smoke is either thrown into the rectum, by means of a pair of bellows of a peculiar construction, or an infusion of the

leaves is exhibited in the form of enema. From its narcotic power, also, the smoking or chewing tobacco has been found useful in allaying the pain of tooth-ache, and smoking it has been recommended, and in some instances found useful, in shortening and rendering more supportable the paroxysm of spasmodic asthma. The infusion has been used as an emetic, but the practice cannot be recommended; and notwithstanding the success of Dr. Fowler, who employed it in dropsy and dysury, its general effects are too violent for internal exhibition, and it is not equal as a diuretic, either to squill or foxglove, which are more manageable remedies; in dysury, however, its antispasmodic properties are of advantage, and consequently its use in that complaint is less objectionable. The external application of a strong infusion of tobacco, or of a cataplasm of the moistened leaves themselves, is sometimes employed as a local stimulant in porrigo, scabies, and some other cutaneous eruptions, but even in this mode of using it, tobacco is apt to induce the same virulent effect as when it is internally administered in large doses.

But tobacco is chiefly employed as a stamitatory, and is the basis of all the kinds of snuff generally used. The powdered leaves, when snuffed up the nostrils of those unaccustomed to the use of snuff, excites vehement sneezing, and promotes a considerable discharge from the nostrils, answering all the purposes for which errhines are employed. As a luxury, snuff has been used upwards of two hundred years in Britain, and has been taken in great quantities without any perceptible bad consequence, although it has been asserted that its immoderate use weakens the sight, produces lethargy, and gives a tendency to apoplexy. After the use of it has become habitual, it cannot be relinquished without considerable risk, arising from the suspension of the artificial discharge it produces.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

SIR,

AN article in the Medical Adviser of Saturday, May 15th, 1824, called "*Annals of Quackery*," and signed "Cathartic," one part of which says,

"No. 7. is a man that came to this town a few years ago with only one coat, which ought to have paid taxes, for it had plenty of window lights in it; and after he had lain in obscurity a little while, he started of a sudden, *Dr. Campbell, Surgeon, &c.* Now he rides occasionally two horses, and has a pretty good business, but is rather on the decline through hard drinking, bullying, and swaggering. If he is a member of any college, let him fairly and publicly state it, and if he is, so much the worse for him; cases *can be* brought forward, that would disgrace a ploughman that never saw rhubarb in his life. Let him answer this, or he shall soon hear from me again."

You will oblige me by giving the author's name of the above by return of post. He shall soon hear from me.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

JOHN CAMPBELL, M. D.

Ashton-under-Lyne,
May 30, 1824.

*** We decline giving the name of our correspondent until we hear from him, and then it will only be in case he will permit us so to do.—ED.



ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

"Dr" *Friedburg—Sloane and Co.—"Medical Establishment"—a slip-in-door round the corner—Blue bottles and filthy bills—"Walk up ladies and gentlemen, just going to begin"*—and all in "THE ROW!!"

O, spirit of Pope, of Prior, and of Addison, why are ye not moaning in the winds of St. Pauls? Shade of old Johnson, why groan ye not, in stiff antithesis, your wrath upon the things which now pollute your terra sancta?

Oh, Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green! colossal sextuple, stand ye there unmoved? and Baldwin, bibliopolist of weight, pass you on to Cheapside, yet not turn an eye? Sherwood, are you, too, so pent up in crowds of customers, that not a word (even on commission) escapes you? And Knight and Lacey, hopeful publishers!—rising scions of THE ROW!—why smile ye at the growing fungus thus, and lift not a leg to kick it out? Friedburg, the boot-boy and bottle-carver of the pencil-pedling rascally Rakasiri quack, has polluted Paternoster Row with impunity; the very entrance of that sacred passage to immortality is portered by a giver of dirty bills, and disfigured with a pop-in pill-hole! Where are you, collective spirit of the Row?—But no matter; we'll look after you another time; we have now got other fish to fry.

The subject of our present comment is the brother-in-law, and was the servant of Levy, the Rakasiri Jordan, who, seeing the success of his master in gulling, has lately set up for himself, and he bids fair to rival his relative.

He was born, about 24 years since, in Frying-pan-alley, Petticoat lane, his father then being, as he still is, an accountant for bankrupts, i. e. striking out a balance-sheet from books which did not exist till after the balance-sheet was manufactured, or, according to his own designation, "a bankrupt account." Now this *arithmetical* character, desirous that his son and heir should cut some sort of *figure* in the world, at a proper age sent him to school, and were we to estimate his acquirements from the number of establishments he has been in, we should be justified in pronouncing Freidburg a prodigy, for in less than a twelvemonth he was admitted into, and discharged from no less than eight schools, and from all for something *worse* than stupidity. Associating even with the lowest orders of street-boys, he neglected the little advantages which he might have obtained by proper conduct, and supported his idle and wandering life by selling heart-cakes, from which he became a dealer in "*rale*" St. Michael's. Being now grown up, he was determined to make a leap at something higher than a mere hawker, and so managed to make his *debût* in the mountebank business as under clown and trumpet-blower at one of the shews in Hyde Park, in 1814. Having now completely perfected himself in the theoretical part of the profession, nothing was wanting but a little practice to produce a second Solomon; with which view, our Dr. enters the army, (and where is there a better school?) and took the bounty as a full private; but being "the piping time of peace," his mighty soul could not endure inactivity, so, (like other great men) he leaves the army in disgust, and takes up his domicile with his brother-in-law, and his now brother in physic, Dr. Jordan, as man of all-work. Here, for the first time, we find our Dr. in—a respectable house? no;—in a decent house? no;—but in a house of ill fame in Great Surrey-street;* but even there his love for the profession could not get the better of his pride, and on any person enquiring for his *master*, his invariable reply was, "I'd have you to know, Sir, he is not my *master*, for he married my sister Louisa."

Having in this manner spent three or four years, and as many hundred pounds (no matter how obtained,) and having acquired that inseparable attendant on ignorant presumption—a large stock of impudence, he said, "Jack was as good as his master, and that he could cure all sorts of diseases as well as Dr. Jordan," which was perhaps the only trueism he ever uttered. Thus the master discharged the man, and the man discharged the master, venting maledictions on each other, the master prophecying that the man would certainly kill some person or other, for which he would be hanged; the man retorting, that since the master had already had so many patients, many of whom were gone "to that bourne from whence no traveller returns," and as many of his present patients were on the point of associating with his former ones, he stood by far the better chance;—and thus they parted.

Our Dr. being now entirely his own master, and perfectly independent—having nothing to depend on—he resolved to render himself useful to the public, by diminishing the super-

* The residence of the Jordans.

abundant population. It being, however, whispered to him, that his beardless chin and juvenile appearance badly suited the *grave* character he was about to assume, and that all the respectable "medical establishments" had "a firm," he doffs his dandy dress, orders a suit of formal cut, and a hat, the shallowness of the crown corresponding with the lining, and a brim according with the taste of William Penn. Thus equipped, he sallies forth in quest of an auxiliary, who would lend his name to establish the "firm." After some little difficulty, he fell in with a needy fellow of the name of Sloane (of whom, in his turn); worthy coadjutor! the one proposes terms —the other agrees—and that self same night, over a pint of half-and-half, was conceived, brought forth, and christened, the immaculate firm of "Friedberg, Sloane, and Co." A situation was next to be thought of,—a serious thing. "The Jordans, Eadys, Mitchels, &c." says Sloane, "already monopolize all the most populous districts, and it is absolutely necessary that we establish ourselves, in the first instance, in town, whatever we may do hereafter." "I have it," exclaimed the man of cakes in exstacy; the centre of the metropolish, my boy, is the place; it is the centre which attracts all things." (for our Dr. is a "Newtonian," as we shall presently shew.) All the members of the accountant's family were immediately on the alert, and not a house from Temple-bar to Aldgate pump, having a bill in the window, was left unsearched by these worthies. At the end of the second day's perambulation, Dr. F. returns in breathless haste:— "Vish me joy, my poy, vish me joy; —Paternoster Row, what say you to that, eh; by G— it is the very middle of the centre!" Of course no objection was started against so *classical* a situation; the house was taken, furnished, and the front decorated with the names of this most respectable "firm,"—Freidburg and Sloane.

But the Apothecaries Company called upon Mr. Friedburg, to know by what authority he practised as apothecary; and sooner than enter into the *merits of the case in Court*, he politely compromised, by taking down his name, and leaving Sloane's up; but as the Apothecaries Company could not prevent him from being a physician, he stuck his name on the back door—"Doctor Friedburg;" and so oddly situated is this label—so *cornerways* and dusky, that many a bacchanalian pays it a visit,—it is alway washed clean.

We feel we should be justified after having walked our learned doctor, from Frying-pan-alley, into and out of school, up the City-road with his heart cakes, round the Royal Exchange with his oranges, on the borders of the "Serpentine" with his cap and bells, through Hyde-park with his musket, back into Great Surrey-street with Jordan's bills, and ultimately *set him down*, a mountebank, in Paternoster-row, were we to break off, and allow our readers to reflect on the incalculable mischief this fellow has done, is doing, and will do, were it not that the fellow's method is too novel to be passed over, and that we have a pledge to redeem,—viz. to prove our Dr. a "Newtonian."

Let the reader picture to himself a back parlour, neatly furnished with the usual paraphernalia of a quack, Dr. F. seated on an ottoman, in a pink morning-gown, yellow slippers, and a green velvet cap with a gold tassel; on his right, Dr. Sloane; before him a table covered with Latin books,—no matter what they treat of, and a snuff-box of extraordinary dimensions immediately under the olfactory organ of this prince of empiricks. The reader having all this in his "mind's eye," we beg to introduce a patient, with the following colloquy, as related to us by the unfortunate sufferer herself; having been detained some half hour in the waiting room, to give the Dr. the appearance of having been engaged, she was ushered into the presence of their high mightinesses:—*Dr. F.* "Come here, young woman, stand at the head of the table (to the right of Dr. S.) Vats the matter vith you, heh?" *Patient.* "I am unwell, sir." *Dr. F.* "Ay, ay; and I suppose you vant us to make you vell? From your appearance, I guess you carry on a good stroke of business." *Patient.* "Middling as to that, sir, when I am well; but unfortunately—" *Dr. F.* "Yes, yes, I see you have got a ——. Come,

come, never mind, ve shall soon set you on your legs again, prowided you stick to us, and have nothing to do vith Jordans, or Eadys, or Goss, or any of those willains;—but, say how is your blunt?" *Patient.* (not understanding the term, said) "Sir?" *Dr. S.* "What will you stand if we cure you out and out?" *Patient.* "Why, I am but a poor unfortunate girl, as you may say, but I think I could muster a sovereign." *Dr. F.* "A sovereign; well, that will do for medicine; but, you know, ve must be paid for our skill; you get your money easier—much easier—than ve, s'elp me G—— you do. (Patient then put a sovereign on the table, which was immediately put into a canvas bag). *Dr. F.* "Come, brother, let's examine the patient." *Dr. S. to Patient.* "Hold your arm out." (Here the patient held out her arm; Dr. F. immediately grasping the tips of her fingers with his left hand, while Dr. S. with his right felt the pulse,—for Sloane always feels the pulse, Friedberg the fingers) *Patient.* "I beg pardon, Dr., but there is nothing the matter with my hand, as I know of." *Dr. F.* "Your hand! no, bless you! but you dont know, I suppose, and therefore I'll tell you, that your harm is exactly like a still-yard, and the power by which you are enabled to raise any weight with your fingers is on the principle of the lever alone; could Jordan or Eady have told you that, eh?" *Dr. S. (whispering Freidburg)* If that had always been her case, she would not have brought us a sovereign this morning. *Dr. F.* "Well, well, go into the shop, your medicine *is* ready."—There is a mountebank rascal for you!



MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Suffocation by the Tongue.—In the parish of St. John's, at Winchester, a man named Thomas Forder, has died from his tongue swelling to such a degree as to cause suffocation in the space of twenty hours. This is an extraordinary disease, and as yet is unaccounted for. The tongue is sometimes the seat of sudden mortification, but in that case it sluffs away. We have witnessed a case of this kind, but then the whole of the surface of the skin also mortified. Dale Ingram, an old writer, mentions a case from the German journals, in which a child lost its tongue in small-pox; it was spit away by piece-meal, until no portion of it remained. The case was not fatal.

M'Donald the Quack.—This fellow is making the most of our exposé of his medical talents, by advertising, under the pretence of a reply, a long list of his *pretended* certificates of medical studies; and, to give it *eclat*, concludes by stating, that he will "appeal to a jury of his country" against the Medical Adviser. Let the people not be imposed upon by such indirect puffing; he is a quack—and an ignorant quack—in the true sense of the word. We went over to inspect his "infirmary" the other evening, and such a place as it appeared to us to be!—a long narrow pent-house, situated in a stable-yard at the back of the Kent Road, with two entrances—the one to his own dwelling (a part of the pent-house), and the other for the visitors of the patients. At the moment we entered, six trays of beer were brought in for the wretches suffering under the influence of M'Donald's humbugging, and his wife served it out in pots-ful. Nothing can equal the wretchedness of the place. On one side of the "infirmary" is written "*Warm and Cold Baths,*" and on the other, "*A Horse and Cart to let,*" with "*Goods removed on the shortest notice.*" It put us in mind of *the Galloway heifer.*

Poisoning from boiling Meat in Coppers.—A family, in Cannon-street-road, were last week seized with violent spasms, pains in the stomach, &c. from eating salt meat which imbibed poison in being boiled in a copper. The mother of the family declares it had been well cleaned before the meat was put into it. No death ensued.

Food for Infants.—We continue

to receive the grateful information of the efficacy of our *food for infants*, recommended in one of our early numbers. It is the best possible thing, and simple—being merely powdered biscuit, and milk boiled. The biscuits should be of the best quality, and the food should not be changed for a year.

Stomach Pump.—The operation of removing poison from the stomach, by the pump, has been performed lately in Dublin, upon a gentleman who had in mistake swallowed saltpetre instead of common salts. However, we think that the surgeon who performed it would have done equally well had he merely directed his patient to swallow a quart or two of warm water. Saltpetre, when diluted, will not do any harm, and had he swallowed the warm water, the contents of the stomach would have been more suddenly emptied than by the pump—But the Dublin surgeons are particularly desirous of infusing "*consequence*" into their practice.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. may lose twelve or fourteen ounces of blood—It is an awkward place to apply leeches.

S. H. next week.

J. R. should take an emetic, and on the following night bathe the legs in warm water, and take ten grains of Dover's powder.

A CONSTANT READER would do better to write to those clergymen who support Gardner than to us.

B. Y's case requires consideration, and if he tells us where to address him, he shall have an answer.

X. Y. Z. should blister the inside of his knee; and when the blister heals, if the pain be not gone, repeat it. Let him rest upon a sofa or bed during the time, and previously dake a dose of salts.

Let M. F. F. take ten grains of cream of tartar and a scruple of powdered gum arabic every day in a glass of hot water, for eight days, and then write to us.

C. H. G. has done well to syringe the ear. He may safely try all the remedies he mentions, but keep the ears warm. Amongst others, he may try a clove of garlic put into the ear at night.

X. Y. A CONSTANT READER may use an injection made with ten grains of sulphate of zinc to two ounces of water, three times a-day.

Was J. JENNINGS' letter answered? if not, we would recommend five drops of diluted sulphuric acid three times a-day, and cold bathing.

W. has a letter, as desired, at Manchester.

Let G. of York use the shower bath,—a large jug of cold water poured upon his head every morning, from a height of three feet; and let him take, every second day, ten grains of rhubarb, for a fortnight, but continue the water.

H. H. may apply the electric shock across the parts.

M. H. will do well to use the bougie all the night.

W. R.'s case is, we fear, hard to cure. Has he syringed his ears with warm water? if not, let him try it for several days, and take three drachms of the tincture of senna daily, between breakfast and dinner.

G. M. C's letter next. He would further oblige us by watching M'Donald, the worst and most dangerous of all the quacks.

Let S. R. of Woburn Mews take, every night for a week, five drops of the acetate of morphine in a spoonful of water, going to bed.

The expectorating pills for asthma could not have had that effect; try five grains of squill pill every night.

A. S. must be partially mistaken; medicine without principles is all chance.

A Letter for Mr. Williams is at our Publishers'.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

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THE BRAIN.

The brain, considered by its superior part, nearly represents a round or spherical body, for which reason the two parts which separate it according to its length, are called the *hemispheres* of the brain, though, strictly speaking, each of these parts only represents a quarter of a sphere. This mass fills the whole cavity of the skull, and is covered by a strong parchment-like membrane called the *dura mater*, immediately next the bone, and also by a thinner membrane called the *pia mater*, immediately next the brain. The superior portion is termed the cerebrum, the inferior the cerebellum, and that portion continuing down the back bone, the spinal marrow.

In the brain we distinguish two substances, one external, the other internal; the first called *cineritious* or *cortical*, the second *white* or *medullary*. Anatomists have supposed that the cortical substance is the secretory organ of a spiritous fluid called *animal spirits*, and the medullary substance as an assemblage of very fine ducts, which receive this fluid in proportion as it is secreted by the cortical substance.

On the surface of the cortical substance, we observe several furrows, whose irregular directions very nearly imitate the circumvolutions of the small intestines; those are what phrenologists call the *organs*, giving a separate function of thought to each, —which, if they could prove from internal demonstration, would make phrenology worthy of attention in the highest degree; but these philosophers go to work outside the skull, and neglect to search after their object internally.

From the inferior portion of the brain arise several pairs of nerves, which extend in minute ramifications to the external parts of the head, throat, lungs, and stomach; and from the spinal marrow arise the remainder of the nerves, or those destined to communicate vitality to the remainder of the body.

Of the Use of the Brain.

Though it is true that nothing certain can be affirmed concerning the use of the different parts which compose the brain, yet it must be granted that this organ has so great a share in the functions of all the other parts of the body, that it is justly called the organ of all the rest, or the *primum mobile* of the whole animal economy. We ought not, therefore, to be astonished, if the Author of nature has so carefully defended it against the noxious impressions of external bodies: in a word, besides that it is included in an osseous box, whose particular structure defends it against these impressions, it is also covered with two membranes. The first, which is the dura mater, not only defends the brain from the hardness and inequalities of the cranium, but is also of great use by the partitions which it forms; for the anterior, as we have said, hinders the one hemisphere of the brain from pressing upon the other when the head is turned to one side, and the posterior defends the cerebellum from the weight of the posterior lobes of the brain. As for the sinuses observed in the thickness of this membrane, their use is not confined to render the circulation of the blood more free in the head; but by their several contortions they also hinder this liquor from returning to the heart with too much rapidity. We say nothing of the motions attributed to the dura mater by celebrated authors, because as it is closely adherent to the cranium, it does not seem capable of moving, especially as we neither discover in it either fleshy fibres or a sufficient number of arteries to communicate these motions to it. It is true, that when it is laid bare we see it elevate and depress itself; but these motions by no means belong to it, for at that time it only follows the motions of the diastole and systole of the brain, which are communicated to it by the great number of arteries distributed to it.

As for the pia mater, it seems that the great number of partitions which it forms, is necessary as a support to the sanguiferous vessels which penetrate the soft substance of the brain, and which are distributed to it in a great number, especially to its cineritious substance, which, as we have said, is by several great anatomists looked upon

as the secretory organ of the animal spirits, which afterwards pass into its white or medullary substance, formed by the union of the excretory glands of the cineritious substance, to be distributed through the nerves in all the parts of the body.

It is asked, whether the medullary fibres which rise from the glands of the cineritious substance of the brain continue distinct, and without their cavities communicating with the adjacent fibres, from their origin to the place where the nerves begin? or whether these fibres communicate with them, by forming in their course a common receptacle in form of a spongeous body, where they terminate in order to discharge the spirits which they have received from the glands, and from which common receptacle, by some called *emporium*, those filaments arise which compose the nerves, so that, according to this opinion, the animal spirits which come from the right side of the brain communicate with those which come from the left? The delicacy of the fibres which compose the medullary substance of the brain not permitting us to follow them in their course, we are obliged to have recourse to some experiments which may favour the one or the other of these opinions. Two experiments seem to favour the opinion of those who admit a common receptacle for the animal spirits.

The first of these experiments has been made on a dog, by taking away a considerable portion of the cineritious part of the brain, notwithstanding which he retains the motion of all the parts of the body. The second experiment is founded on cases of persons who have been wounded in the head, and in whom a part of the brain has been removed, without their being attacked with a palsy in any part of the body.

In my opinion, we cannot well explain these phenomena, without admitting a common receptacle; for in the extirpation of this considerable portion of the brain, a great number of glands being destroyed, all the nervous fibres which rise from them must want spirits, and consequently deprive those parts of them to which these nervous filaments are distributed, which must necessarily produce a loss of motion in those parts. But as the motion is retained in all the parts of the body, we may reasonably conclude that the spirits which have not ceased to flow into all the parts, not coming from the glands which have been moved, must necessarily proceed from a common receptacle, unless we assert that the same part of the body receiving its nervous fibres from different parts of the brain, may retain its action, though some of these fibres cease to furnish it with spirits, the others being able to supply their defect. But we answer, that each of the fleshy fibres which compose the body of a muscle separately receiving its nervous filaments, the whole muscle cannot retain its action, since this action must necessarily be lost in the fleshy fibres which correspond to the removed glands.

The abettors of this opinion affirm, that this receptacle and the nerves are always full of animal spirits, and that they flow from them continually into all the parts of the body, since new spirits are constantly separated to supply those sent from the receptacle and the nerves. Thus this discharge of spirits is never finished during life, but is a perpetual source which is never exhausted, and which affords its supplies unequally, according to the disposition of the blood and organs; and though the animal spirits flow continually into our organs, because they are propelled into them by those filtrated in the glands, yet the least cause is sufficient to interrupt their course and repel them to the brain, the force which obliges them to descend being very weak, and consequently easily surmounted by the impressions which objects make on our organs. But in proportion as the animal spirits are repelled to the brain, they agitate its fibres by a necessary mechanism, and excite in us the sensations of pain and pleasure, and all the ideas imprinted in our minds by the presence of objects, because it appears that the very principle of our sensations depends on the agitation of these fibres.

Of the Sensations.

As it is by means of the nerves that

the impressions of objects are transmitted to the seat of the soul, it is to be observed, that the nerves may be agitated either in their origin, that is to say, at their beginning or at their extremities, or in the portion between their origin and extremities. If the nerves are agitated at their origin by the agitation of the animal spirits, the impression conveyed to the soul is called *image* or *idea*. If the agitation is made in their middle portion or at their extremities, and communicated to the brain, the impressions which the soul then receives is called *sensation*; this sensation will be either painful or agreeable, according as the agitations which the nerves receive from objects are gentle or violent; for it is probable, that the cause which produces pain does not differ, but in degrees, from that which produces pleasure.

It is to be observed, that there are organs which receive the impression of certain objects, on which occasion the soul has a particular sensation, while the other organs, though exposed to the impressions of the same objects, are not, however, agitated by them. The organs which are agitated by these particular objects are called the organs of the senses, of which we reckon five, namely, the skin, the nose, the tongue, the eye, and the ear; in a word, it is only the skin that is capable of exciting in us the sensation of the tactile qualities of bodies, that is to say, which enables us to perceive distinctly whether the bodies which we touch have smooth or rough surfaces, &c.

The nose is the only organ by which we can have the sensation of smells, the tongue and palate that of tastes, the eye that of light and colours, and the ear that of sound.

Of these organs, there are some in which it is necessary that the object intended to excite the sensation must be immediately applied to the organ. There are others which are agitated, though the object intended to excite the sensation is at a distance from the organ. To perceive, for instance, by the touch the smoothness or inequalities of a body, it is necessary that the object be applied to the skin. We may say the same of taste, with respect to the tongue and palate. But in order to see luminous and coloured objects, and to hear sounds, the agitation necessary to excite these sensations cannot be produced without the assistance of some intermediate substance, as the air, &c. which is placed between the organ and the object.

When in consequence of an impression made upon some organ of the body, a sensation is excited in our soul, there are four things which we generally confound, but which, however, it is of great importance to distinguish, 1st, the action of the object to which we refer the sensation, for example, the puncture of the skin by a pin, &c.; 2d, the agitation which the nervous fibres have received from that object; 3d, the perception which is excited in the soul by this agitation, or the sensation itself; 4th, the judgment, which we may call natural, by which the soul attributes this sensation to the part pricked, though it is certain that this sensation is only in the soul.

SCROFULA.

Scrofula is a constitutional affection, which manifests itself in various symptoms and forms of disease. Swelling of the glands of the neck, ulcers all over the body, rickets, sore eyes, and swellings of the joints.

The first appearance of the disease is most usually between the third and seventh year of a child's age, but it may arise at any period between these and the age of puberty, after which it seldom makes its first attack. It most commonly affects children of a lax habit, with a smooth, soft, and fine skin, fair hair, rosy cheeks, and a delicate complexion, which shews a number of blue veins on the face; but it is not always confined to such appearances. It likewise developes itself often in children with large forehead, enlarged joints, and protruding abdomen.

Scrofulous persons are often comely and handsome, and rather distinguished for acuteness of understanding and precocity of genius. They are, however seldom robust, or able to endure

much fatigue without having their strength greatly exhausted, and their flesh much wasted; but when they once begin to regain these, their convalescence is usually rapid.

Scrofula prevails more in those climates where the atmosphere is cold and humid, where the seasons are variable, and the weather unsteady; from latitude 45 to 60 is the principal climate of this disease. A long continuance of inclement weather may increase any predisposition to scrofula; and in persons much predisposed to it, any uncommon, though temporary, exposure to wet and cold, is sometimes an exciting cause of an immediate attack. Besides climate and exposure to moist air, and atmospherical vicissitudes, every other circumstance which weakens the constitution and impairs the general strength of the system, predisposes to scrofula; thus breathing impure tainted air, unfit for respiration, and living upon food of an unwholesome and indigestible nature which does not afford proper nourishment to the body, favours an attack of scrofula by reducing the strength of the system, and making the person weakly. The neglect of due personal cleanliness, and of salutary exercise, indolence, and inactivity, the want of warm clothing, confinement in cold damp habitations, &c. may all be regarded as so many exciting causes, and satisfactorily account for the prevalence of the disease among children employed in large manufactories, as at Manchester, &c.

Scrofula is by no means a contagious disease, but beyond all doubt is of an hereditary nature, and is often entailed by parents on their children. The patient, it is true, is not born with the disease, but only with a greater aptitude to revive certain morbid impressions which may bring the latent disposition into action. There are indeed some practitioners who wholly deny that this, or any other disease, can be acquired by an hereditary right, but that a peculiar temperament of body, bias or predisposition in the constitution to some diseases, may extend from both father and mother to their offspring, has been very clearly proved; for example, gout is very frequently met with in young persons of both sexes who could never have brought it on by intemperance, sensuality, or improper diet, but must have acquired the predisposition to it in this way.

A predisposition to become affected by certain diseases, on the application of exciting causes, does certainly exist in the human race, and particularly so (there is every reason to presume,) in scrofula, gout, and mania; in some instances it is more strongly marked than in others; but predisposition is inert, and of itself insufficient to produce disease; it requires, for this purpose, the application of an exciting cause. This is the proper light in which should be viewed, what are termed hereditary predisposition and hereditary disease.

A remarkable circumstance attending the transmission of scrofula is, that although it is an hereditary disease, it does occasionally pass over one generation, and appear again in the next, so that the grandfather and the grandson, (the first and third generation) shall both be scrofulous, while the intermediate one, which holds the more intimate relation of father and son, and connects the two others together, shall be exempted from any attack of the disease.

The matter which scrofulous sores generate, does not seem to possess much acrimony, for if the sore be of limited extent, the system does not suffer by its continuance, nor do the neighbouring parts seem to be much affected by its vicinity; neither is it contaminatory, as has been proved by Mr. Kortum, who attempted to transfer scrofula from one person to another by inoculation, but although he took great pains to insert the matter completely; and, although he repeated the experiment frequently, yet all his attempts failed of success, as no disease was communicated, nor even any evident irritation excited at the place where the matter was inserted. All apprehension of scrofula being propagated by contagion or contact appears therefore to be a groundless prejudice.

The late Mr. Cullen supposed scrofula to depend upon a peculiar constitution of the lymphatic system

One of the most frequent symptoms of this disease is undoubtedly an enlargement of the lymphatic glands, and the frequency and often universality of such swellings have induced some physicians to suppose scrofula as depending upon a morbid affection of the lymphatic system; but many other parts of the body which show little of a glandular structure are very often the primitive seats of scrofula. A modern writer considers scrofula as a disease arising from, and generated by, disorders of the digestive organs; but this opinion is ill-founded. Some writers have attributed much influence in its production, to the habitual use of impure water, among whom is the late Dr. Heberden. Scrofula is a disorder closely connected with a delicate constitution, lax fibres, and debility.

It is a disease of very frequent occurrence in this country, particularly in large manufacturing towns, appearing under various forms, and in different degrees of severity, from a state of mildness, which hardly betrays any perceptible external symptoms, to a state of violence, which produces the most miserable objects of human wretchedness, and wherever it mingles with any accidental or local complaint, it makes all the symptoms worse and more difficult to cure, particularly in syphilies.—*(To be Continued.)*

NIGHT BLINDNESS.

In this disease the sight is perfectly clear and distinct in the day time, but a total blindness takes place by night, from which occurrence it derives its name. The disorder is peculiar to the inhabitants of tropical climates, and the southern parts of Europe, being but rarely met with in cold ones, and has been supposed to proceed from the torpor of the retina and optic nerves, which suffer so much from the strong reflected rays of the sun by day, as not to be susceptible of the faint or weak light which the night furnishes. It is a frequent concomitant to scurvy between the tropics. In some cases it is symptomatic of derangement in the digestive organs; and where it occurs in this country it is most likely from that cause, or from liver complaint.

The disease is in general unattended with any other symptom, except that perhaps a more than ordinary sense of fullness is now and then perceived in the fore part of the head and over the eyes. It is seldom of long duration, and admits of a speedy cure.

Evacuations, although recommended by some physicians, we think improper, except that of regulating the bowels; for our view of it is, that the immediate cause is debility of the system. The tonic plan, which we recommended in page 338, under "Indigestion," should be followed, as indeed it should in all weakness of the eyes. The eyes should be bathed with a wash made of eight ounces of water with half a drachm of sulphate of zinc, and a green shade kept over them; nor should the patient look upon a strong light. A blister should be put to each temple, and the following mixture taken:—

Of decoction of cinchona, five ounces,
Tincture of cinchona, one ounce,
Diluted sulphuric acid, 40 drops.—Mix.
One spoonful in the day.

GHOSTS.

The early metaphysicians conceived, that the five senses that brought to the soul apprehensions of touch, vision, hearing, smelling, and taste, were under the immediate control of a personified moderator, named common-sense, by the means of whom, all differences of objects were discerned. The soul, through the medium of this ministering principle, who dwelt in the fore-part of the brain, not only learned the forms of the outward things brought to "her" by the senses, but was enabled to make still farther distinctions, in which she was greatly superior to common-sense. Common-sense knew nothing but differences; the soul knew essences; common-sense knew nothing but circumstances; the soul knew substances; common-sense recognised differences of sound; the soul resolved concords.

A second ministering principle to the soul was memory, who kept a storehouse in the back part of the brain, where all the species, ideas, or images of objects which the external

tenses had industriously collected, were treasured up.

A third ministering principle to the soul was phantasy, (fancy) or imagination, whose seat was the middle cell of the brain. Phantasy retained objects brought by the senses, examined more fully such species or ideas of objects as were perceived by common-sense, arranged them, recalled the ideas which memory had stored up, and compounded all things which were different in their kind, black and white, great and small. When phantasy, "the handmaid of the soul," as this principle was called, had finished her compounds, she committed them to the care of memory, in whose storehouse much was remembered, much forgotten.

Such was the office of phantasy, whose influence, when it began to be acknowledged, entirely changed the views that had been entertained regarding ghosts.

"Horatio says, 'tis but our phantasy,"

was the explanation given of the ghost of Hamlet's father. It will be, therefore, interesting to inquire in what manner phantasy, (or, in more modern language, *fancy*) was enabled to induce this illusion.

It was supposed, that while common-sense and the five subordinate senses were subject to laws of restraint, as in sleep, fancy was always working day and night, as was evident from our dreams. But the labours of this industrious handmaid, were always corrected by the over-ruling principle of the soul. The soul, by means of the faculty of *wit*, looked into the result of fancy's labours, and was then enabled to abstract shapes of things, to perceive the forms of individual objects, to anticipate, to compare, to know all universal essences or natures, as well as cause and effect. By the faculty of *reason*, she moved from step to step, and in her progress rated objects accordingly. By the faculty of *understanding*, she stood fixed on her ground, and apprehended the truth. By the faculty of *opinion*, she lightly inclined to any one side of a question. By the faculty of *judgment*, she could define any particular principle. By the faculty of *wisdom*, she took possession of many truths. Now, all this labour the soul could not accomplish, unless fancy, her handmaid, were obedient to the faculty of reason. But fancy was not always to be thus controlled, the cause of which it will now be necessary to investigate.

It was next conceived that the blood was subjected to great heat in the heart, where it was purified, and enabled to throw off delicate fumes named *animal-spirits*. A set of nerves then formed the medium through which the animal-spirits were conducted to the brain. They were there apprised by fancy of the forms of all objects, and of their good or ill quality; upon which they returned to the heart, the seat of the affections, with a corresponding report of what was going on. If the report were good, it induced love, hope, or joy; if the contrary, hatred, fear, and grief. But, frequently, there was what Burton calls *læsa imaginatio*, or an ill imagination or fancy, which, sometimes, misconceiving the nature of sensible objects, would send off such a number of spirits to the heart, as to induce this organ to attract to itself more humours in order to "bend itself" to some false object of hope, or to avoid some unreasonable cause of fear. When this was the case, melancholic, sanguine, choleric, and other humours too tedious to be mentioned, were drawn into the heart—more animal-spirits were concocted by heat, and these, ascending into the brain, perplexed fancy by their number and diversity. She then became impatient of subordination, and no longer obeyed the faculty of reason. Falling to work, in the most irregular manner, upon the ideas which memory had stored up, she would produce the wildest compounds of sensible objects, such as we detect in the fictions of poets and painters, the chimeras of aërial castle-builders, and the *false shows* (as they were anciently named) of our waking visions.

"*Fracastorius*," says Burton, "referres all extasies to this force of imagination, such as lye whole dayes together in a trance: as that priest whom *Celsus* speakes o that could

separate himselfe from his senses when he list, and lye like a dead man, voide of life and sense. *Cardan* brags of himselfe, that he could doe as much, and that when hee list. Many times such men, when they come to themselves, tell strange things of heaven and hell, what visions they have seene. These apparitions reduce all those tales of witches, progresses, dauncing, riding, transmutations, operations, &c. to the force of imagination and the divell's illusions."

Such was the popular view once entertained of the cause of apparitions. "It is all fancy or imagination!" it is, indeed, the common explanation given of ghosts at the present day, not only by the vulgar, but even by the physiologist and the metaphysician. But Dr. Brown, in the view which he has taken of superstitious impressions, has very properly noticed more correct principles concerned with the production of spectral illusions; but still, there is an unnecessary introduction of the word *fancy*, which, in this case, arbitrarily refers to some very curious laws, of which this able metaphysician has not given any explanation, but which he has considered in another part of his work, as meriting more attention than has hitherto been paid to the subject.

"What brighter colours the *fears of superstition* give to the dim objects perceived in twilight, the inhabitants of the village who have to pass the church-yard at any late hour, and the little students of ballad-lore, who have carried with them from the nursery many tales which they almost tremble to remember, know well. And in the second sight of this northern part of the island, there can be no doubt that the objects which the seers conceive themselves to behold are truly more vivid as conceptions, than, but for the superstition and the melancholy character of the natives, which harmonize with the objects of this foresight, they would have been; and that it is in consequence of this brightening effect of the emotion, as *concurring with the dim and shadowy objects* which the vapoury atmosphere of our lakes and valleys presents, that *fancy, relatively to the individual, becomes a temporary reality.* The *gifted eye*, which has once beheved itself favoured with such a view of the future, will, of course, ever after have a *quicker foresight*, and more frequent revelations; its own wilder emotion communicating still more vivid forms and colours to the objects which it dimly perceives."

After these very general observations on the opinions long entertained regarding the power of fancy or imagination, I shall now proceed to notice other remarkable views, which, at different times, have been taken of the influence of this personified principle of the mind.

Van Helmont supposed that the power of fancy was not merely confined to the arrangement and compounding of forms brought into the brain through the medium of the senses, but that this principle or faculty of the soul was invested with the power of creating for herself ideas independently of the senses. Thus, he conceived, that as every man had been a partaker of the image of the Deity, he had power to create, by the force of his fancy or imagination, certain ideas or entities of his own. Each conceived idea clothes itself in a species, or form, fabricated by fancy, and becomes a seminal and operative entity subsisting in the midst of that vestment. Hence the influence of fancy or imagination upon the forms of offspring. "Ipsam speciem quam animus effigiat, fœtui inducit."

Another opinion entertained by ancient metaphysicians, was, that fancy or imagination could influence the animal-spirits of others, so as to induce a corresponding influence on the heart, which was the seat of the affections. This opinion was maintained by Wierus, Paracelsus, Cardan, and others. "Why do witches and old women fascinate and bewitch children?" asks Burton; "but, as many think, the forcible imagination of the one party moves and alters the spirits of the other." A very natural explanation is thus assigned for the effects of an evil eye.

In a much later period, however,

Lavater conceived that the imagination had a still more powerful influence, as it could operate on the minds of others much more directly than through the animal spirits. The imagination of one individual could so act upon that of another individual, as to produce by this operation a vivid idea of the visible shape of the person from whom this influence had emanated. Thus, the imagination of a sick or dying person, who deeply longs to behold some dear and absent friend, can so act upon the mind of the same friend as to produce an idea vivid enough to appear like a reality, and thus give rise to the notion of a phantasm. Nor is this operation of fancy limited to space; it can act at any distance, and even pierce through stone walls. When a sailor is in a storm at sea, and about to perish, his powerful imagination can so act upon the mind of any dear relative, whom he despairs of seeing again, as to produce on the mind of the same relative an idea of such intensity, as to form a proper spectre of the unfortunate mariner.

This theory was no doubt supposed to be well calculated to explain many coincidences of ghost-stories, and it is certain, that there are on record many ghost-stories, which are in every respect worthy of such an explanation.

The notions entertained that Ideas, by their Action on the Nerves, gave rise to Spectral Impressions.

When the Epicureans wished to explain the origin of dreams, they conceived that subtle images were either given off from other substances, or were spontaneously formed;—that these, after first penetrating the body, made corresponding impressions on the attenuated corpuscles of the material soul. This view differed from a later notion entertained regarding ideas in the following respect,—that they were material forms, not pervading the system from the exhalation of bodies, but regularly carried to the storehouse of memory from unknown sources;—the transportation having been affected by means of the organs of sense.

In connexion with this view, it was conceived, that the nerves upon which sensations depended might not only be affected by external agents, but that they might be impressed by internal causes, when the consequence would be, that hallucinations would arise. Rays of light, for instance, impressing the optic nerve from without, would cause the sensation of yellow, while corrupt humours, as those of jaundice, by impressing the nerves from within, would have the self-same effect. The next inference was, that, as an idea was really material, and might be treasured up by the memory, it could, in some unknown manner, find its way to the nerves, and impress them after the manner of internal causes influencing the mind. "I shall suppose," says a learned metaphysician, "that I have lost a parent whom I have loved—whom I have seen and spoken to an infinity of times. Having perceived him often, I have consequently preserved the material figure and perception of him in the brain. For, it is very possible and reconcileable to appearances, that a material figure, like that of my deceased friend, may be preserved a long time in my brain, even after his death. By some intimate, yet unknown relation, therefore, which the figure may have to my body, it may touch the optic or acoustic nerves. In the very moment, then, that my nerves are affected in the same manner that they formerly were when I saw or listened to my living friend, I shall be necessarily induced to believe that I really see or hear him as if he were present."

The Opinions that Spectral Impressions were the Result of a false Judgment of the Intellect.

An opinion was entertained, late in the 17th century, that ghosts might arise from the reasoning faculty of the soul being unable to judge between realities and ideas. If the notion regarding ideas had been the same as that of Dr. Brown, namely, that they were nothing more than states of the mind, this last view would not have been very unexceptionable. But still, it was much

blended with erroneous notions regarding the intellectual powers of the soul, which I have no inclination at present to combat. Suffice it to say, that by a modified condition of the intellectual power, called by the name of *vitium subreptionis*, it was conceived, that "every thing of which a person had not a clear and distinct sensation, would not seem real; and every thing that resembled, in a certain mode, a certain idea or image, was precisely the same thing as that idea." But we have a much less distinct notion of this subtle metaphysical principle, than of the example which is given of it. When the head," says a pneumatologist, is "filled with many stories which others have related to us of the ghosts of monks, nuns, &c. we find a resemblance between that which we may perceive and such tales. A man is influenced by the second judgment, and he takes what he has perceived for a true apparition. Imagination then heats him; intense and terrible images present themselves to his mind; the circulation of the blood is deranged, and he is affected with a violent agitation. It is impossible to resist a fancy which, when it begins to wander, gives to simple ideas such a degree of force and clearness, that we take them for real sensations. A man may thus persuade himself of having seen and heard things which have only existed in his own head."

PROPERTIES OF THE LEMON.

The lemon-tree is a native of Assyria and Persia, whence it was brought into Europe; first to Greece, and afterwards to Italy. It is now cultivated in Spain, Portugal, and France, and is not uncommon in our greenhouses; it is a beautiful evergreen, of small growth, sending off numerous branches covered with a greyish bark; the leaves are alternate, of a shining, pale, green colour, ovate acuminate, about four inches long, and two inches broad, slightly indented at the edges, and supported on naked linear footstalks; the flowers, which appear the greater part of the summer, are odoriferous, large, and placed on simple and branched peduncles, arising from the smaller branches. The calyx is saucer-shaped, with the teeth pointed; the petals are oblong, concave, white, with a purplish tinge on the outside, the filaments united at their base into four panels, support yellow, vertically-placed anthers, and the gumen is superior, roundish, and having a simple style with a globular stigma; the first is an ovate berry, pointed at each end, rough, punctured, externally of a pale yellow colour, and internally divided into seven, nine, or eleven cells, containing four seeds in each, and filled with vesicles distended with an extremely acid juice. The rind is double, the exterior part thin, yellow, and chiefly made up of a great number of vesicles, filled with a very fragrant oil, the interior is thicker and whiter than the exterior, and coriaceous.

Lemons are brought to England, from Spain and Portugal, and other countries, packed in chests, and each lemon separately rolled in paper; the Spanish lemons are most esteemed.

Lemon juice is sharp, but very gratefully acid; it consists principally of the citric acid, mucilage, extractive matter, a small proportion of sugar and water. Before Scheele's process was known, many different unsuccessful plans were adopted for separating the citric acid, which is now obtained in a crystallised form, and admitted into the London and Dublin pharmacopœia's; the simple juice, though well depurated of its extractive matter, yet soon spoils; and, therefore, the crystallised acid dissolved in water, is generally used in its stead.

The rind is warm, aromatic, and slightly bitter, qualities depending on the essential oil it contains, which is given out to water, wine, and alcohol; the essential oil obtained by distillation is extremely light, nearly colourless, and fragrant; and has the same taste as the rind, only in a greater degree; it is very volatile, yet does not readily rise with alcohol, or with proof spirit

Lemon juice is refrigerent and antiseptic; it is given diluted with water

and sweetened, forming the beverage called lemonade, to quench thirst, and abate heat in febrile and inflammatory diseases; given alone to the extent of a table-spoonful for a dose, it allays hysterical palpitations of the heart; and in combination of carbonate of potass, half an ounce to twenty grains of potass, with water, taken in a state of effervescence, is used with great success to stop vomiting, and determine to the surface; a still more useful and pleasant effervescing draught is made by putting a table-spoonful of lemon juice, mixed with a small quantity of sugar, into a tumbler, and pouring over it half a pint of acerated soda water: on account of its antiseptic powers, lemon juice is successfully used in scurvy, and for this purpose, large quantities of it in a concentrated state, are distributed in the navy; but the continued use of it is said to be hurtful to the general health of the men, and to hasten the progress of phthisis where it makes its appearance. Dr. Wright observes, that its powers are increased, by saturating it with muriatic of soda, and recommends such a mixture in remittent fever, dysentery, cholic, putrid sore throat, and as being almost specific in diabetes and lientery; it is also given united with camphor, infusion of cinchona, in wine, in the same cases.

Lemon peel is added to stomachic tinctures and infusions, and is particularly applicable in dyspepsia, arising from irregularities in diet, and the inordinate use of ardent spirits.

The essential oil, is chiefly used as a perfume, to cover the smell of sulphur in ointments compounded with it.

TEA AND COFFEE SHOPS

We are sorry that our duty obliges us to disapprove of any branch of business, to which an honest class of people belong—This is imperative in the case of tea and coffee shops. They have been of late years introduced upon an economical principle, and to people in rude health may be of no evil, but to those who are at all dyspeptic, (and out of ten of their visitors, seven are so) the habit is replete with grear danger. In the first place, tea and coffee should never be used as an article of diet and nutriment, but taken as a refreshing beverage, and more than two small cups, or one large, injures; this quantity should be strong and of good quality. Now in these *tea and coffee shops* of which we speak, neither the tea nor the coffee can be good. They furnish a bason of hot slop, of the most deleterious ingredients—we mean that it is deleterious to those who are at all dyspeptic—perhaps two or three cups are taken, and thus the stomach distended with weak fluid, to the prejudice of that digestion which was going on before the fluid was taken. We make these observations, to put our readers on their guard: and we may here observe, that a meal should never be made of even the best tea or coffee, but merely used as a refresher after.

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

To prevent Tooth-ache.

Take two ounces of gunpowder finely powdered in a *stone mortar*, for fear of explosion, and mix it with a pint of vinegar. Rince the mouth with it every morning, or oftener, if required.

Another.—After having washed your mouth with water, rince it with a tea-spoonful of lavender water, mixed with an equal quantity of warm or cold water, as preferred, to diminish its activity.

These remedies, as remedies for mere cleanliness, are good, they cannot act in any other way than that of cleaning the teeth, which after all is the best preventive to tooth-ache.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Cough Mixture.

Take of horehound tea a cup, into it put two drachms of the syrup of squills.

—Take a couple of table-spoons full occasionally.

Another.

Take of milk of ammonia, four ounces. Syrup of squills, two drachms, mixed, a spoonful occasionally.

[We insert the following letter with pleasure; because we think, that if the paragraph be false, it will serve most materially the gentleman alluded to.]—Ed.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, being inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Ashton-under-Lyne, have seen an article in the Medical Adviser*, entitled, "Annals of Quackery," and bearing the signature of "Cathartic," containing, in paragraph No. 5, statements relative to Mr. James Harrop. Now, we hereby certify, that the said Mr. James Harrop was liberally educated for the medical profession; that at the age of fifteen years he was placed as an apprentice with the late Mr. James Ogden, surgeon, of this town, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, with whom he remained for the space of six years; and that ever since his commencement in practice, he has conducted himself with the greatest propriety, and in the strictest professional manner. And we also conceive the attack made upon his character, in the paragraph above mentioned, to be wanton, unprincipled, and detestable in the extreme. As witness our hands this 24th day of May, A. D. 1824.

Rev. John Hutchinson.
William Wright.
John Oulton, *Overseer.*
John Heginbottom, Sen.
Robert Heap.
John Bromley.
Samuel Street.
Samuel Hallworth.
Joseph Gregory.
Joel Hawkyard.
Thomas Slack.
John Whitehead.
Thomas Sykes.
Isaac Newton France.
John Southam.
Frederick Reyner.
Thomas Rider.
Jonathan Sutcliffe.
Nathaniel Buckley.
James Lord.
Abel Buckley.
James Dean.
John Heginbottom.
James Walmsley.
Nathaniel Heginbottom.
John Marsden.
William Gibbon.
Thomas Oldham.
Thomas Ogden, Surgeon. The statement made in the last sentence of the paragraph relating to Mr. Harrop is, in my opinion, a most unwarranted one; and I feel myself justified in stating this, from having watched over his medical education from the very commencement thereof, and from having had frequent opportunities of seeing him and his practice since.
Robert Lees.
Edmund Whitehead.
Thomas Whitehead.
Samuel Heginbottom, Croft House.
John Saxon.
Joseph Stopford.
Thomas Boardman.
Enoch Armitage.
James Heginbottom.
George Whitehead.

I hereby certify, that the original, of which the preceding document is a true copy, is now in the possession of the within mentioned Mr. James Harrop, and that the signatures attached thereto are those of the most respectable characters residing in the town and neighbourhood of Ashton-under-Lyne. As witness my hand this 24th day of May, A. D. 1824.

JAMES MELLOR,
Attorney at Law.
Ashton-under-Lyne.

* Of Saturday, May 15th, No. 24.

MESSRS. UNDERWOOD'S CAUL.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I AM glad to have a gentleman of your medical knowledge to agree with me in the virtues of a child's caul. I am a sea-faring man, and have not for many years ever gone to sea without one; the one at present in my possession being reckoned quite a beauty in its way, although, I must confess, it is not at all comparable to Messrs. Underwood's caul. I walked from the Isle of Dogs to Fleet-street the other day to have a view of these gentlemen's caul, and to make some enquiries at the old women; but I was told by the shopman that the Messrs. Underwood were not at home, and in their absence, the *two old ladies* could not be seen. Perhaps you could inform me whether *cauls of pretension*, like that of Messrs. Underwood could save a sea-faring man from the hands of pirates. I am anxious for this information, as I have got a freight for the Mediterranean, where these vermin, I am told, have of late committed some disgraceful excesses.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

R. M.

*** Our Correspondent is informed that the Messrs. Underwood's caul will not save from piracy: but this we can say, that it will not save pirates; for in the pocket of one of the men lately executed for piracy, a twin caul to the one in question was found; neither did the body float on being thrown into the sea.



ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

PETITION AGAINST THE QUACKS.

MR. HOBHOUSE has presented a petition from the College of Surgeons, against the quacks. This is truly gratifying intelligence for the MEDICAL ADVISER. Our intention in attacking the quacks as we have before stated, was in the hope of awakening the legislature to a true sense of the evil, and thus far we have succeeded. We trust that even if the petition, which Mr. Hobhouse brought in, should not have the desired effect, that a *motion may be submitted on the subject.* Nothing can be easier than to put down the quacks by act of parliament; there are enough of regularly educated medical practitioners, God knows, to take care of the public health, therefore, why not exclude pretenders, by imposing a heavy fine and imprisonment upon those practising, without proper qualifications.—Mr. Hobhouse has begun the great work, Heaven grant he may complete it!

DR. FRIEDBERG.

IN the account we gave of the life and adventures of the most renowned doctor of doctors, ycleped Friedberg, one or two circumstances were omitted. Now, really, the most trivial *movement* of so great a man, ought to be handed down to posterity. Yea, should be written in letters of gold, and delivered (gratis) to all his patients (God help them!) present, past, and to come.

Doctor Friedberg, from a child, was determined to be in some way or other employed about the body of man; and rather than his abilities "should waste in the desert air" he introduced himself to a master tailor, placed himself, cross-legged upon the shop-board, began to handle the *goose* and *shears*, and became a very man of threads and patches; but, that lasted not long; his mighty heart would not submit to that base employment; and one day in a pathetic mood, he jumped off the board, threw his *measures* in the fire, his *knee-board* on one side, and his goose on the other, and brushing the threads from his galligaskins, he tripped forth in search of a service.

A short time after that, he became an attorney's errand boy; we know not why he left that situation—

perhaps he would have the goodness to inform us—we suppose it suited not with the natural flexibility of his body; he loved, like a watch to be in continual motion.

Thus our readers will perceive, that the *fellow* never hid his talents in a blanket; and they will, no doubt, confess the variety of his pursuits, have well formed him for a M. D.

We are surprised that the most ignorant of the ignorant, could be for a moment deceived by him—his imbecility is so apparent; his talk so *senseless* and *clownish*, that we cannot but express our opinion, that nature intended him for a Merry-Andrew, and fortune in one of her laughter-loving moods, and fanciful humours, introduced the blithe whim into his head to become a doctor.

We can but conclude with a prayer, "may the Almighty open the eyes of his patients" (if he has any).

*** The tailor by whom Frideberg was employed, is called *Polack*, and he resides in Great Alie-street, Goodman's-fields. The attorney is Mr. Abrahams, of Jewry-street, Minories.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

ANXIOUS for the welfare of the cause, which you have so nobly undertaken to advocate, I trust you will excuse my presumption, in sending you an account of the treatment of a case of inflammation of the chest, (by that infamous quack M'Donald) of which an apothecary's errand boy would be ashamed. A poor Irish woman carried her little girl of seven years of age to him for advice, for the complaint mentioned above; he said her inside was frozen up!! gave her some of his own pernicious drugs, which he ordered her to mix up with gin, honey, spirits of nitre, and give a table-spoonful of it three times a day; also, to rub the chest with spirits, and apply mercurial ointment to the abdomen, night and morning!!! the consequence of which was, the child swelled, and died in a few days; from what prescriptions of his I have seen, I *believe* he orders the same medicines for every complaint; without any regard to age, or sex; very often it is given in the same proportion, and strength, from the infant of three months old, to the mother of thirty years. I have not been guided by hearsay in these observations, but from having frequent opportunities of seeing his prescriptions. Should you think this letter would be of any service to you in your humane exertion of rooting out these great enemies of mankind, I shall think myself highly repaid for my trouble in writing it; in conclusion, I must again beg pardon for troubling you with such an epistle, I have done so, conscious of your known liberality and goodness of heart, with the hope, that your attempt will meet with the success it deserves, and your reward be the gratitude of your country.

I remain,
Your obedient humble servant,
A young disciple of
ESCULAPIUS.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

WE cannot help noticing the pitiful state of John Knight and Henry Lacey. Notwithstanding their having respectable and genteel relations, they are now reduced to the deplorable state of want and distress, and are obliged to publish three-penny books which are filled with libels against those who do good. Lately one formed against one who gives £2000 to the poor every year, and who now spends his whole time in doing good to the poor; we find that the writing answers some purpose, and that is to produce disgust in every philanthropic mind, and prevent chimney sweepers' boys, labourers, employing themselves in such like work as the publishers. This is written by a lady who has derived considerable benefit from the parties so reviled; and to shew the publishers what great men of science and talent they are. I am,

with due disgust,
Your humble servant,

*** This is from Doctor M'Donald's wife;—she is often in *this way!!*—ED.



MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Small-Pox.—We are informed by a gentleman who this week arrived in London, from America, that small-pox is making great devastation at Philadelphia. The disease is now also very prevalent at Winchester ; and we are also informed, that a lady of quality in the neighbourhood of that town, is so infatuated, as to have her tenants' children inoculated. There should be a law to prevent inoculation. Why should we anticipate such a dreadful malady, particularly when we can vaccinate?

Hydrophobia.—Fatal cases of this awful malady have occurred a few days ago; and more may be expected, from several having been bitten by a rabid dog who have not passed the period generally allowed for the appearance of the disease. We propose to medical men who may meet with cases of hydrophobia, to try what effects the introduction of water into the stomach, by means of the *stomach syringe*, would have. We are impressed with a *forcible hope of its success*, and trust that an opportunity will not be allowed to pass by without trying the experiment.

Jordan the Quack.—A friend of this empyric met him the other day in Cheapside, upon which the Doctor thus addressed him,—"Hi say, Isaac,—Have you seen that d—d *Medical Adviser*, how they've been a blowen me up—heh?"—"I have indeed, Doctor, and am sorry for it," returned the addressed. "Well, then, I'll tell you what, Sir," replied Jordan, "the *regulars* may all —— —— ——! I've done the trick, my boy, and they may go to ——!"—(*A true bill.*)

Sir Charles Aldis.—This "walking apothecary," Knt. that is "in the *habits* of breakfasting with Dr. Blegborough, and dining with Dr. God knows who," went to the last levee at Court, but was obliged to retire from being refused admittance. The cries of "*quack, quack,*" became so loud and repeated from the crowd, that even poor "*Jarvis,*" that drove the mock courtier, could scarcely bear it.

The Lollypop Surgeon.—Skinner, of Hatton-garden, who, when he lived on Saffron-hill, made as good lollypops as ever were eaten; lately was sent for to a young woman, who was in labour. He, in the true tradesman-like way, first asked, was the money forthcoming, and finding it not quite so quick as he wished, turned on his heel, and left the patient. Mr. Titterton, surgeon, of Wilmington-square, Spa-fields, was then sent for; and, with the most prompt humanity saved the poor woman's life. The latter gentleman found her in a deplorable situation, owing to delay.

The King of France.—A correspondent informs us, that *Louis le grand* is so ill, that the physicians despair of relieving him. The discharge of serum from the punctures made in his legs, amounts to eight or nine pounds daily; by this discharge, they say, his life has been preserved; but, that the quantity secreted is not far exceeding the evacuation, and, therefore, the danger is imminent.

Hospitals.—It is said that the first hospital for sick, of which any account is preserved, was founded by a Christian lady, named Paulina; and that it was established for the reception of those pilgrims who might fall sick in visiting the Holy Sepulchre This hospital was attended by laymonks, called the Brothers of St. John, of Jerusalem, the origin of the Templars or Knights of Malta, who were remarkable for their skill in curing wounds. We have an earlier account of public hospitals in O'Halloran's Work, on the Antiquities of Ireland. That author states that long before Christ there was attached a large building to the palace of Tara for the reception of sick warriors, and was emphatically named, in the Irish

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS in reporting to us the effects of our advice should state the former disease, symptoms, and medicine prescribed.

Let VERAX take fifteen grains of cream of tartar every day for a week—then write to us.

J. W. M—H— should rub all over with sulphur ointment every night for a week

W. our Edinburgh friend, and G. W. are thanked.

B. A. of Liverpool, will find a letter at the Post-office.

G. H. D. should try our plan, and then he will find which is best.

We have received several letters about CURTIS.

Did J. G. Spread Eagle-court, receive an answer?

W. W. T. would do well to follow the plan laid down page 338 of the MEDICAL ADVISER.

"MR. EDWIN and SIR CHARLES ALDIS," is an odd thing; we shall consider it.

H. H. Apply the electrical fluid across the parts affected.

JOHN A. A. must tell us where to address him; so must LIONEL I.

SERCHEZ, half a pint of water, with two drachms of sulphate of zinc.

Let S. W. leave off all his present medicines, follow the plan page 338, MEDICAL ADVISER, and take five grains of blue pill every third night for a month.

BRISTOBENSIS shall appear.

A CONSTANT READER must treat the digestive organs.

C. H. H. take five grains of blue pill every second night for a fortnight, then every fourth night.

T. R. B. we hope, does not allude to FELIX TIBB's Latin; we know there are errors in our publication, arising from hurry. The errata will explain them.

W. S. K. Pepper should be used with vegetables. For the deafness syringe the ear, and blister behind it—then take a strong cathartic.

X.'s case is mislaid; if he sends another it shall be answered.

MARY may safely take the medicine; does she regard the ignorant talking of a druggist's shopkeeper, who cannot possibly know any thing of the matter?

R. H. shall be considered.

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THE

MEDICAL ADVISER,

AND

GUIDE TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE.

EDITED BY ALEX. BURNETT, MD.

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OF THE NERVES IN GENERAL.

We last week described the brain; we shall now proceed to give a general idea of the nerves.

The nerves are cords formed by the assemblage of several filaments, which proceed from the medulla oblongata included in the cranium, and from that contained in the vertebral duct, commonly called the *medulla spinalis*, or spinal marrow, and which are distributed to all parts of the body.

Though the different filaments which compose the nerves have no apparent cavity, yet most physicians agree that they are hollow, or at least disposed in such a manner that they suffer a spirituous fluid which comes from the brain, to pass through their substance, which being distributed through all the parts of the body, serves principally to their motion and sensation.

The nerves are distinguished into two classes. The first comprehends those which derive their origin inside the skull; and under the second are included those which come from the spinal marrow. Ten pair of nerves arise from the former, and thirty from the latter. These last are called *vertebrals*, to which we ought to add the accessory of Willis, or the companions of the eighth pair. But to all these different nerves we ought to add two others, which extend anteriorly along the vertebræ from the head to the extremity of the *os sacrum*. These are called *intercostal* nerves, and in their road communicate with all the vertebral nerves, and at their communication there are as many eminences or tubercles whose colour and consistence pretty much resemble those of the nerve. These eminences are generally called *ganglions*. The most considerable lies anteriorly on the root of the transverse apophysis of the first vertebræ of the neck, having a pretty oblong figure and a softish consistence. At the beginning of the vertebral nerves we also find ganglions, but these are smaller than that I have mentioned, and at the same time of an irregularly round figure. Besides these ganglions there are also some others, which I shall afterwards mention.

By dissections we have discovered that ganglions are principally composed of nervous fibres, and some others more considerable, and appear fleshy; the whole are interspersed with a number of blood-vessels, and covered with the pia mater and the dura mater. We may therefore conceive the ganglions to be formed by the different interlacement of the nerves, which are either distributed to these eminences or arise from them. Some imagine that the ganglions are to the nerves what the conglobate glands are to the lymphatic vessels, that is to say, that they secure in their road the different nerves which either terminate in or arise from them. Mr. Winslow looks upon the ganglions of each intercostal nerve as so many origins of these nerves, and consequently as so many small brains.

We observe, that the two cords which compose the eighth pair of nerves, which come from the medulla oblongata, communicate with each other by several ramifications; and that they do the same in several parts with the ramifications of each intercostal nerve, and form particular interlacements called *plexus*.

The Plate of our 16th Number will illustrate this article.

SCROFULA.

(Continued from page 122.)

The attacks of scrofula seem much affected or influenced by the periods of the seasons. They begin usually some time in the winter and spring, and often disappear, or are greatly amended, in summer and autumn. The first appearance of the disorder is commonly in that of small oval or spherical tumours under the skin, unattended by any pain or discoloration. These appear in general upon the sides of the neck, below the ear, or under the chin; but in some cases the joints of the elbows or ankles, or those of the fingers and toes, are the parts first affected. In these instances, however, there are not found small moveable swellings, but on the contrary, a tumour almost uniformly surrounding the joint, and interrupting its motion.

After some length of time, the tumours become larger and more fixed; the skin which covers them acquires a purple or livid colour, and being much inflamed, they are at last suppurate, and break into little holes, from which at first a matter, somewhat puriform, oozes out; but this changes by degrees into a kind of viscid serous discharge, much intermixed with small pieces of a white substance, resembling the curd of milk.

The tumours subside gradually, while the ulcers at the same time open more, and spread unequally in various directions; after a while some of the ulcers heal, but other tumours quickly form in different parts of the body, and proceed on in the same slow manner as the former ones to suppuration. In this way the disease goes on for some years, and appearing at last to have exhausted itself, all the ulcers heal up, without being succeeded by any fresh swellings, but leaving behind them ugly puckerings of the skin, and scars of considerable extent. This is the most mild form under which scrofula ever appears.

In more virulent cases the eyes are particularly the seat of the disease, and are afflicted with ophthalmia, giving rise to ulcerations in the tarsi, and inflammation of the tunica adnata, terminating not unfrequently in an opacity of the transparent cornea.

In similar cases the joints become affected; they swell, and are incommoded by excruciating deep-seated pain, which is much encreased upon the slightest motion. The swelling and pain continuing to encrease, the muscles of the limb become at length much wasted. Matter is soon afterwards formed, and this is discharged at small openings, made by the bursting of the skin. Being, however, somewhat of an acrimonious nature, it corrodes the ligaments and cartilages, and produces a caries of the neighbouring bones. By an absorption of the matter into the system, hectic fever at last arises, and in the end proves fatal.

The bones also of scrofulous persons, partake of the general disease in the constitution, they seem to contain a smaller proportion of animal earth, and a larger of gelatinous matter, than what accords with the composition of a healthy bone, on which account they are exceedingly susceptible of a morbid action. The diseases in which they are most liable, are general and partial enlargement, inflammation, suppuration, and exfoliation. They are also easily fractured, which facility is much encreased, especially in the long bones, by the deficiency of solid substance; for the cylindrical shell is preternaturally thin, and, therefore, mechanically weak, so that the bone breaks upon the application of an inconsiderable force.

A diseased state of the vertebræ, which in consequence of the softness of their bodies, occasions a protrusion of their spinal processes, and a compression of the medulla, is generally allowed to be closely connected with scrofula.

The primary attacks of scrofula, often admit of an apparent cure, while their sequent are secretly laying the foundation of diseases which undermine the patient's constitution, and unexpectedly manifest their insidious effects at a distant period of time, when no suspicion was entertained of their existence.

When scrofula is confined to the external surface, it is by no means with danger, although on leaving one part it is apt to be renewed in others, but when the ulcers are imbued with a sharp acrimony, spread, corrode, and become deep, without shewing any disposition to heal; when deep-seated collections of matter form among the small bones of the hands and feet, or in the joints, or tubercles in the lungs, with hectic fever arise, the consequences will be fatal.

On opening the bodies of persons who have died of this disease, many of the viscera are usually found in a diseased state, but more particularly the glands of the mesentery, which are not only much tumified, but often ulcerated; the lungs are frequently discovered beset with a number of tubercles, or cysts, which contain matter of various kinds; scrofulous glands on being examined by dissection, feel somewhat softer to the touch than in their natural state, and when laid open, they are usually found to

contain a soft curdy matter mixed with pus; examinations after death of those who have laboured under a disease of the spinal column, have shewn that almost all the glands are found in an enlarged, diseased, and often suppurated condition, and that cysts are also discovered, connected with the diseased vertebræ that contain curdy, purulent, and other matter of unequal consistence.

Scrofula is a disease, the cure of which is of acknowledged difficulty; its treatment naturally divides itself into two periods; the first is that in which without any local sore, or other marked symptoms of disease, there is sufficient evidence of a scrofulous pre-disposition prevalent in the system. The other is that in which some local sore, or other scrofulous symptom, which requires appropriate management, that may either concur with the general treatment of the constitution, or interfere with it, has actually taken place.

As scrofula is greatly promoted by the slow operation of a number of circumstances, which produce a gradual change in the constitution; there is great reason to expect benefit from placing the patient in a different situation of circumstances; if for instance, the continuance of improper diet, has seemed to favour the appearance of the disease, an amelioration of it will naturally counteract this tendency; a similar advantage will be derived from substituting the respiration of pure salubrious air, instead of what is tainted and unwholesome, and, in like manner, every management conducive to health, and that will invigorate the body, will contribute to correct the disposition to scrofula.

To be Continued.

APHORISMS OF HIPPOCRATES.

ORDER OF DIET.

16. Hip. Old men generally endure fasting, those in their firm age not so well, young men worse, and children worst of all, especially those of more lively spirits.

Cook. In appointing diet have respect to age, as well in diseases a in health.

Ed. The aphorism is true.

17. Hip. Those bodies that grow, have much more natural heat, therefore they require great store of food, else the body wastes; but old men have little heat, therefore require little food; for much extinguisheth that heat; and this is the reason that old men have not very acute diseases, for their bodies are cold.

Cook. In this you have a reason of the former aphorism.

Ed. Substitute *vigour* for heat, and this is right.

18. Hip. The venter are most hot in winter and spring, and sleep longer, therefore for that season nourishment ought to be more copious; for then the natural heat being most vigorous, requires most nourishment; of which the differences of ages, and wrestlers' bodies are sufficient proof.

Cook. It shews that more copious, hot and dry nourishment may be used in winter, because as natural heat is more strong, so it resists the coldness and moistness of the winter air; and that phlegm, collected in winter, may be better consum'd.

Ed. True.

19. Hip. In summer and autumn the sick cannot bear much meat; in winter most easily, and in the spring time in a mean manner.

Cook. This is an explication of the 17th which follows.

Ed. True; but the comment is applicable to nothing in the aphorism.

20. Hip. The more you nourish impure bodies, the more you hurt them.

Cook. Because the aliment you give, turns into vitious humours.

Ed. True.

21. Hip. Those meats and drinks which are worse, yet if please, are to be preferr'd before those better that please not.

Cook. Because the stomach more greedily embraceth and speedily concocts them.

Ed. All obscurity.

22. Hip. It is easier to be restored with drink than meat.

Cook. Because liquid and moist diet is more easily concocted and dispersed, and so fills the body sooner.

Ed. Hippocrates is true, but Cook absurd.

23. Hip. Drinking wine plentifully, assuages hunger.

Cook. Especially spirits of wine, or aqua vitæ, because they do not only correct the cold distemper, but dry and cause thirst, and thirst coming diminisheth hunger.

Ed. Certainly wine assuages hunger, when taken plentifully, but it is by depriving the stomach of its healthy power.

24. Hip. Those things which nourish speedily and plentifully, are quickly excreted and voided.

Cook. Those shew the good constitution of the body; hence the equality of concoction, distribution, and excretion.

Ed. The aphorism is true, but Cook, mere talk.

25. Hip. Neither satiety nor too much abstinence from meat, or any other thing which is above nature, is safe.

Cook. This shews that the soundness of nature consists in moderation.

Ed. True,—any one may see that.

26. Hip. Where there is much hunger, rest from labour.

Cook. For both together would cast down strength, and dry the body too much.

Ed. True.

27. Hip. Moist diet is good for all troubled with agues, especially for children, and others accustomed thereto.

Cook. For the body, all this age, being in his prime of growing, the increase thereof is not to be hindered by drying meats; besides that, the substance of children easily dissolves, and therefore to be recruited with moist nourishment, which is easily concocted and distributed.

Ed. Very doubtful, if he means fluid diet.

28. Hip. Nothing must be given to them, neither must they be constrained to take meat which have fits return by certain determinate courses; but food ought to be diminished before manifest tokens appear to judge of the disease.

Cook. Give not meat in the fit, although in case of debility. Aliment may be exhibited towards the end of the fit; for, by the first especially, nature may be called away from concocting the diseased matter.

Ed. This is a good aphorism.

29. Hip. In fits, and their fierce invasions, take away meat, for then it is hurtful; and when diseases return by course, in the return of these fits use abstinence.

Cook. Besides what is said before; note, then the body is filled with a filthy vapour, and for the most part corrupts the meat eaten near the fit; only observe, if they be hot and dry bodies, and tender, there may be given light aliments both in the beginning and increase.

Ed. Good; but Cook is an old woman, and attempts to explain what he does not understand.

30. Hip. In diseases which come instantly to their state, presently use slender diet; but in those which come more slowly, allow a fuller to, preserve the patient's strength, and diminish it by degrees before and in the extremity.

Cook. He speaks here both of acute and chronic diseases, and shews in both how they are to be drawn off from a fuller diet by degrees.

Ed. Good.

31. Hip. When the force of the disease is greatest, then a more sparing diet is to be observed.

Cook. We are not to nourish in the state of diseases, lest nature be called off from concocting the diseased matter.

Ed. A good aphorism.

32. Hip. When, therefore, the disease is very sharp, and presently hath most extreme pains, then use an exceeding slender diet; but when it is not so, we may use a fuller, and as the disease declineth, we may by little and little encrease it.

Cook. By pains he means symptoms, which in those very sharp diseases are seldom but accompanied with hot fevers, therefore sharp diseases require the thinnest diet.

Ed. This is embraced in the foregoing.

Hip. But we must consider and conjecture by the sick, whether he be able to hold out and persist with the prescribed even to the state and uttermost extremity of the disease, or may

faint or fail; and being too weak with such diet, may yield the victory to the disease, before it retire or be overcome.

Cook. Indications are to be taken from the patient's strength; for if strength be little, aliment must be given.

Ed. Stupidly true.

(To be continued.)

PURE AIR IN FEVERS.

The chief object to keep in view during the stage of excitement, being to subdue nervous excitability and thereby the morbid action of the heart and arteries; this is best completed by cool air, and the other means. The sedative operation of cool air in all febrile complaints is readily explicable on the foregoing principles, and without which every other remedy is comparatively useless. Pure air admitted freely into the apartments of the diseased, together with personal and other cleanliness, is indeed alike requisite to the safety both of the physician and attendant, and is of far more value than all the *juggling* processes of fumigation, whether they consist of sulphuric acid poured upon the muriate of soda, or of Mr. Sutcleffe's "preventive *quota*, the *gaseous* forms of the acetic acid," which wonderful discovery he, in the Medical Repository, calls God to witness, has been too long withheld from the profession! The proper admission of pure air into the chambers of the sick cannot be too much inculcated. It carries off the continually accumulating effluvia emitted from the body of the patient, diluting, weakening, and dispersing it, along with the numerous noxious animal exhalations; and thus, by cherishing and contributing to renovate the healthy action of the system, the morbid heat of the sick body is not merely dissipated, but prevented from being again produced; the aridity of the cutaneous system, the parched tongue and concomitant thirst, are all ameliorated. The admission of it, however, should be most free during the hot stage, and at all times to be limited by the patient's feelings. In calm warm weather, the air is very easily renewed by the use of a large fan, or what answers the same purpose, is a piece of thin canvas, stretched in a light frame of wood. But as water is a much better conductor of caloric or heat than air, and particularly of confined air, caloric is as much abstracted from the body by water, which is merely a few degrees lower than the internal temperature of the body, as by air of a much lower temperature.

FRENCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

(Continued from page 266.)

L' Hospice de la Maternité.

THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

The ancient Foundling Hospital has been a long time cited for the great number of infants who were received into it, and the major part of whom died there. Franklin informs us, that in 1785 more than a third proportion of children born at Paris were received into it, and that a tenth part of them did not survive beyond a year.

L'Hospice de la Maternité was founded since the Revolution on the ruins of the old Foundling, and it now receives pregnant women, as well as foundlings. For this purpose, the institution is divided into two parts; one called the nursery or department ward, and the other the lying-in division.

In the departments for lying-in women, a school is instituted for the instruction of women, in the study of midwifery: therefore I was not surprised on my first visit to this hospital, at finding the rooms filled with practitioners in petticoats. The school for midwifery which has been established twelve years, is attended by young females from all parts of France; some pay for the privilege of study, but most of them are chosen by the prefects in the provinces, or by the directors of hospitals, who defray all their expences. For six hundred francs these women are annually supplied with board, lodging, and instruction. They reside in the hospital, and are not allowed to leave it, without special permission from the directors.

After one year's study, which terminates by an examination, they receive from the school of medicine a diploma which entitles them to practice in midwifery. Exclusive of their daily practice on cases in the hospital, they receive two lectures each week from a professor, specially appointed to deliver that course, and also a lecture on midwifery every day, by the chief midwife of the hospital. There is also a course, made expressly for them by a professor of the faculty of Paris. They pay their daily visit to the physician and surgeon, and each pupil gives in writing a clinical report of the state of the patients entrusted to their care. The scientific correctness of some of these reports presented to Monsieur Chaussier, physician in chief, would not, in my opinion, have been unworthy a first rate practitioner. Those reports described the state of the patients, observed at three different periods, since the visit of the previous day; the affections of the soul, the different sensations felt by the patient, state of her pulse, breathing, cutaneous perspiration, state of the stomach, medicines administered and their effects; all was scrupulously given in these reports.

M. Chaussier does not receive those reports alone for form's sake. He attends to the manner in which they are treated; notes the symptoms, which appear to him to have been forgotten or badly described, according to the theory and practice of midwifery, anatomy, and the circulation of the fœtus are also demonstrated to the pupils; they assist in dissections on women, who died at the hospital, in child-bed, and learn phlebotomy and vaccination.

In the first five years of the institution of this school, nearly five hundred women, from all parts of France, received diplomas to practice in midwifery; and at present one hundred and fifty annually are entitled to practise. Yearly prizes are distributed to those who distinguish themselves by superiority of intelligence in their reports, or for the most accurate solutions of any questions that may be proposed. Those who pay for their lectures, and are privileged to prolong their stay in the hospital, are then charged with the instruction of the younger pupils, who are divided into three classes.

In England, the study of midwifery is so little considered, that no plan for the improvement of women who practice it, has been adopted by any of our wise corporations, changed with the surveillance of medical science. We have, consequently, for a long time seen that important duty exercised by men of inferior and neglected education; or by a horde of *old women*, who have received no education at all! The division of the "Hospice de Maternité," destined for the occupation of pregnant females, contains about 140 beds: all the women who have passed the *eighth* month of pregnancy, or who are in danger of miscarriage, are admitted into this asylum, and divided into three classes; viz.—the poor married women,—young females, who may have unhappily been seduced, but whose names are carefully kept secret; and women of the town. The last class is always the least numerous. Each accouchement is attended by junior midwives, under the superintendence of the head midwife. M. Dubois, the surgeon-accoucheur, is not called, except in cases of extreme difficulty or danger.

No male student is admitted into the hospital.

There is also an infirmary for the women, to whom any accident may happen, either during or after child-birth, and those who have no dangerous symptoms after the painful operation, are enabled to leave the hospital, generally in about twelve days.

The number of females delivered at this hospital amounts annually from 1800 to 2000. But the French authors are very erroneous in asserting, that *no* hospital can present an equal number. I can very easily refute this mis-statement, by describing an institution, the merits of which, I must in justice, in the most public manner acknowledge, although it is hardly known, even in the English nation, which should be proud to boast of such a noble monument of philanthropy.

The "Lying-in Hospital," of the city of Dublin, yields not to any institu-

tion that I have ever inspected, not so much for the simple elegance and beauty of its architecture, as for the neatness and cleanliness of its wards, and the general order of its interior administration.*—(*To be Continued.*)

OLD WOMEN'S REMEDIES EXAMINED.

For Scorbutic Blotches.

Take two or three handfulls of watercresses bruised, to a quarter of a pint of milk, and simmer them over a slow fire until they assume a green colour. Bathe the hands or parts affected with this liquid, and rub it in dryly by the fire. Afterwards moisten the parts with a little simple ointment, to prevent the glutinous portions of the milk from cracking or chopping the skin when in a drying state.

This is a remedy founded on good principles, and should be at least tried fairly.

For Hooping Cough.

Take of conserve of roses,
Raisins of the sun, stoned,
Brown sugar-candy, 2 ounces each, and two pennyworth of spirits of sulphur; beat them up into a conserve, and take a teaspoonful night and morning.

This is a mere palliative, and has no power in curing whooping cough.

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS.

Ointment for Indolent Ulcers.

Take 20 grains of red precipitate powder,
An ounce of common lard, and mix.
Spread upon the smooth side of lint thinly, and dress the ulcer twice a-day.

CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

I AM a young man, assistant to a medical gentleman, practising the three branches of the profession, in a populous neighbourhood, in the parish of St. George, Southwark. During the last two years and a half, and while acting in the above capacity, I have frequently been engaged in the practice of midwifery. Lately, in consequence of my employer's unavoidable absence from home, the entire management of his practice, for three weeks, devolved upon me. In the course of my numerous vocations, I was called to a lady in labour, who had been attended during two or three of her previous accouchements by the very person for whom I was then officiating. I immediately obeyed the message, and on visiting the patient, found the labour in a very advanced state; and though evidently disappointed, she was ready to place her confidence in me, and expressed herself perfectly satisfied. Her husband, however, unfortunately, was not quite so composed, his mental quietude had given way to a, perhaps, more than ordinary degree of anxiety, which, together with an affectionate regard for the safety of an amiable partner, and my being a stranger, prompted him to call in a "neighbouring surgeon," without either my knowledge or consent. When I had been about a quarter of an hour in the room, and while the labour was going on remarkably well, a short, square, corpulent figure, was suddenly ushered into the apartment, under the name of Mr. ———, "a neighbouring surgeon, breathless and faint, and leaning on his cane;" and though his unexpected visit was far from being agreeable to my feelings, yet he only remained neutral for a few minutes before the child was born, the placenta soon followed, and I had the gratification to see this gentleman quickly retire, evidently both disappointed and displeased. To describe the subsequent behaviour of this practitioner, and to give publicity to that illiberality which exists among those narrow-minded individuals, who so egregiously disgrace our profession and themselves, are the only motives for offering these remarks.

This conspicuous personage has of late, been going his "little rounds," in a vehicle with four wheels, drawn by two "horses, mares, or geldings," and whose mansion forms an angle with the Elephant and Castle, and *No.* 51, Newington-causeway; is, as I before stated, a corpulent figure, with a large head, nearly surrounded by face, and a countenance, of course, not the most agreeable; an anterior

* The table of registering of births of this hospital shall be given in our next number, together with an account of its regulations, &c.

abdominal projection, stands forth in full luxuriance, supported by a pair of short legs and thighs, exhibiting "tout en semble," in my opinion, a Doctor Slop sort of appearance. After leaving directions with the nurse how to proceed until my next visit, I returned home, where I arrived about two o'clock in the morning, having been detained something less than an hour. Calling on my patient about the middle of the day, I found she was but "middling," the after pains were "as usual," she observed, extremely severe, notwithstanding an anodyne which she had taken occasionally, though during their absence she was perfectly easy.

My second day's visit was remarkable for a circumstance, which, perhaps, reflects more disgrace on the conduct of a general practitioner, than any in the annals of physic—certain it is, that I am still near the commencement of my medical career, and consequently my observations and experience must hitherto have been in a comparatively limited sphere; but, previous to this occurrence, I never once entertained an idea, that a person so far advanced in years, could so much exceed the bounds of propriety, by committing an act that must for ever stigmatize his character with indelible dishonor. During the morning of this day, and within half an hour of my arrival, the after pains, which were principally confined to the back, had been very severe, especially the last, which left the patient rather faint and exhausted; the attendants (who by the bye, are seldom in want of cordials) observing this change, administered a quantity of brandy, and shortly afterwards, about six drachms of castor oil was given in a glass of gin, these quickly produced a state of excitement, and at this moment, Mr. G.—, the "neighbouring surgeon," abruptly made his appearance in the patient's apartment, without either a request, or even an intimation of his arrival; after interrogating her and feeling her pulse, he told her she was certainly very ill, (though apprised of what she had taken) and was labouring under a high degree of inflammation; that she was to be bled immediately, or she would not live until the evening. Turning to the husband, who had just entered the room, he observed, "dont you see the white mark on the middle of the tongue? that is a certain sign of inflammation. And," continued he to the patient, "did not your teeth *chatter* in your head?" "No, Sir," she replied; still he persisted in bleeding, and actually, as my patient related, "took out his little box, prepared a lancet, and called for a basin and bandage." Fortunately for this lady, she had never been bled, consequently was averse to "the use of the lancet," told him she was certain her present state did not require it, and, with a fortitude that does her great credit, refused to submit to the operation. "Well," said he, "if you will not allow me to bleed you, you must send for Dr. Walsham (a celebrated accoucheur residing in Kennington)." "That is unnecessary," replied the patient. "'Tis absolutely necessary," returned he; "and if you do not think proper to send for him, I'll take care that he shall be sent for immediately;—and be sure to let me know when he comes, that I may meet him, to hear his opinion of your dangerous case." He then suddenly made his exit, and sent for the Doctor accordingly.

Soon after this, I called upon my patient, and was presently informed she was "very ill indeed." Such an unexpected change I thought, could not have been produced but by some sudden and unknown cause. I hastened to her apartment, when she related to me, in a flood of tears, the transaction which I have above described; declaring, that had her strength permitted at the time, she certainly would have got out of bed and run away from his presence, so terrified was she at his language, and disgusted with his behaviour.

I now thought it necessary to examine her minutely, and to ascertain, if possible, the foundation for so unfavourable a prognosis as the "neighbouring surgeon" had so hastily formed:—The pulse was 120 in a minute, and strong; the skin was perspiring freely; the abdomen discovered no tenderness on pressure; mouth clammy, and rather thirsty;

tongue a little furred in the middle, (the white mark) but moist and clean about the edges; lochia uninterrupted; a plentiful supply of milk; head free from pain; urine evacuated freely; bowels constipated.—Considering the stimuli the patient had taken, and the alarm and anxiety that had inevitably been created, I concluded that the state of excitement would presently subside, and therefore determined patiently to await the operation of the castor-oil, and the result of the Doctor's visit; recommending the anodyne to be discontinued, and a warm fomentation to be applied over the abdomen, with a view to excite the peristaltic motion of the intestines, and a little thin gruel to be taken occasionally. It may likewise be proper to state, that after remaining with her near a quarter of an hour, and assuring her that her case did not require blood letting, and was not only free from danger, but that I had the most flattering hopes of her speedy recovery, she appeared more tranquillized, and her pulse sunk to 110 in a minute.

I attended again in the evening, when she informed me the Doctor had visited her in the afternoon, and with him the *sapient* "neighbouring surgeon," though he had not been informed of the Doctor's arrival. She was then precisely the same as when I left her; the castor oil had not operated, she was free from pain, and her teeth had not *chattered* in her head. The Doctor's opinion was simply this:—He thought bleeding, under the then existing circumstances, might be dispensed with, and recommended the castor-oil to be repeated in two hours, if requisite. The "neighbouring surgeon" now seeing that his diabolical intention was completely frustrated, by the exposure of a most unpardonable error, exclaimed, as a last expiring effort, "*Who is to continue attending this lady?*" The Doctor, with a politeness that has always done honour to the profession and himself, replied, in conjunction with the patient and her husband, "The gentleman who attended at the first has promised to call in the evening, and, of course, *he* ought to continue his attendance." This was decidedly "*a floorer*" to the "neighbouring surgeon," who on recovering himself, quickly retreated to his own residence, where he might possibly derive that consolation which had been denied him abroad, from the presence of his *domus et placens uxor*. Soon after the Doctor's departure, and previous to my visit, the castor-oil had produced two or three copious evacuations, and the patient expressed herself greatly relieved both in body and mind; the pulse was 90, soft and regular; an anodyne was directed to be taken at intervals, and I ultimately had the pleasure to find each succeeding enquiry answered by the agreeable sounds of "Pretty well, thank you, Sir." In the course of two days, she was convalescent, and before the expiration of the month was perfectly restored.

Does not this, I ask, prove a mean endeavour to establish his own reputation, by a worthless attempt to injure mine?—And does it not evince a disposition to obtain, by dishonourable means, a respectable patient, on whom he might exercise that practice which has but ignorance for its support?

I have since been informed, that this *gentleman* is also very fond of women and wine. The former certainly, when amiable and virtuous, are justly entitled to our admiration and esteem; and "we curse not wine—the vile excess we blame:" but if he should still persevere in this harsh, unfeeling mode of treatment, he cannot long expect to maintain a reciprocal affection with that sex on whom our reputation and success in practice in a great measure so frequently depend.

J. T.

*** *This sort of character is but too prevalent.*—(ED.)

ON THE FEAR OF APPARITIONS.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

IT is astonishing what influence and command the passion of fear has over the human mind;—how few are free from the effects arising from its sway over the feelings? This must certainly arise from our habitual thoughtlessness, a weakness of the system, and from not sufficiently estimating

the nature of things. How many are apt to give credit to the tales of ghosts, and have their fears excited by the dread of nocturnal visitation, the gloom of solitude, and the dreariness of a church-yard;—who perhaps may, in the light of day, face the most bold and daring adversary, and no natural terrors dismay; yet at the approach of night, have exhibited all the symptoms of timidity and cowardice; the rustling of trees, the howling of the wind, has then power to intimidate and frighten. Sure, it ought to be the part of such to overcome and stifle these foolish fears; but so it is, that often what a person knows ought to be, and what he should do, is often left undone, either through idleness, incapacity, or wilful neglect. Would they but reflect upon the folly of giving way to such unreasonable apprehensions, sure it would convince them of the ridiculous nature of their fears. Is it natural, is it reasonable, to suppose that a Deity, all-good, all-wise, and desiring the felicity of his creatures, should permit the inhabitants of other worlds, or rather unembodied spirits to present themselves in uncouth shapes to the dwellers of our earth, merely to terrify and annoy them? surely no sane minds can believe it,—no truly wise man entertain the idea; for he who formed the world, and decorated it for our pleasure, and filled it with all manner of delights, and for our use, so as to yield us produce wherewith both to clothe and feed; would he with impunity permit aught foreign to it to haunt and perplex, with their unwelcome presence, the creatures his own hand therein had placed?—Surely not. Feeling thus assured that a benevolent Creator will not needlessly harass the being his hand has moulded, and his wisdom seen fit to call into being, we assert fully our disbelief in the appearance of what the vulgar call ghosts, spirits, apparitions, &c. and think those as little better than idiots who assert the full conviction of their visitations, and protest themselves eye-witnesses of the fact. The truth is, a heated imagination, a weak state of body, and the nervous system impaired, with a variety of like causes, assist the dissemination of a belief of this sort; for such persons soon really believe to be what their fears and apprehensions suppose may be; besides, not a little has it contributed to inculcate the belief. Of such things are the ridiculous tales and improper terrors which in childhood are impressed upon the memory of the young, by ignorant and foolish nurses, who, by terrific stories, endeavour to silence them when crying, or by frightening them to stillness when troublesome; not considering, surely, what a baneful influence it may have on their minds in after time, in the hours of despondency, excitation, and nervous irritability; many, we know, date their apprehensions of this kind from such circumstances. Here would we call upon those to reflect who have ever entertained fears of this kind, as their only mode of cure, to consider its folly, and endeavour to strengthen their minds by avoiding what may tend to impair the nervous system, or weaken their bodies, with a full determination to conquer and banish such ridiculous fears. And should ever a young offspring bless their lot, to be careful what nurses they employ, to what guardian they intrust their children, and strictly to command that no tales of ghosts, apparitions, or midnight wonders ever be reiterated in their ears. So may they be free from the apprehensions which but too often intimidate the multitude.

T. N.

May, 1821.



ANNALS OF QUACKERY.

Petition against the Quacks.

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

SIR,

MAY I as a well wisher to your paper, entreat you to give publicity to the enclosed petition and positions upon which it is founded—you have

already rendered great benefit to society, continue your good works, and believe me to remain, Sir,

Yours very sincerely
CHARLES DUNNE.

Regent-street,
June 4th, 1824.

Royal Medical Institute,
164, *Regent-street.*

Mr. Dunne's Bill presented to the House of Commons, for its parliamentary sanction and legislative authority, against the practice of empiricism in England ; also for supporting the just privileges of real professional merit,—for enforcing the honest discharge of medical persons towards the public, and to associate the profession to give gratuitous advice in the different districts or counties, by branches on the same plan as pursued in the NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT :—This bill is founded on the following Thirteen incontrovertible positions :—

I.—That the public good and best interests of society, are the sole and paramount principle of the present application to parliament.

II.—That the public good and best interests of society, can only be carried into effect by those who exercise particular professions, being competent to the discharge of those duties imposed upon them for the benefit of individuals.

III.—That no person can be competent to the exercise of such duties, without a certain portion of human knowledge in the branch or department he professes.

IV.—That the certainty of his possessing such knowledge, can only be known by his passing the ordeal of examination, as enacted by the competent bodies or corporations appointed by legislative authority for the purpose.

V.—That all exclusive rights, or monopolies of knowledge by those bodies should be confined to this exclusive right of ascertaining the professional competence of individuals, who are to be allowed to exercise their professional talents for the good of society wherever educated.

VI.—That the proof of this competence should not be connected with any local right, but that any person having passed the ordeal of examination by the competent tribunal, whether in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Paris, or Rome, should have an equal right to exercise their talents for the good of society, and thereby honourably gain a livelihood.

VII.—That it is clear from what occurs in law, divinity, and physic, that a foundation or competent education by a course of study, is essentially necessary to exercise any of these different departments, and whoever exercises them without this education, cannot possibly do it with advantage to the community.

VIII.—That an unscientific knowledge of the treatment of any disease, even if occasionally successful in its object, can never be trusted to, for if any unforeseen circumstance should arise, such practitioner can neither avert the mischief, nor find means to relieve the patient as a man of real science would do ;—mere experience alone, devoid of science, can have no other claim on public notice than as empiricism, and, like a seaman, incapable of taking an observation when any thing unauspicious occurs at sea, is unable to direct his course.

IX.—That empiricism in all professions being the opposite to science, and directed by no regular principle but the knowledge of one or two isolated facts, is evidently hostile to the advancement of liberal principles, and too often ruinous to those confiding in such hollow pretensions.

X.—Empiricism, therefore, in Religion, law, politics, and physic, is the hydra to be guarded against, as the bane of real knowledge and improvement, and wherever encouraged, such empiricism is always subversive of the best interests of mankind.

XI.—That the great object of legislation should be to impose a wholesome restraint, on any attempt calculated to overstep the just and fair bounds, which the welfare of the people requires.

XII.—That the daily instances of mal-practice in physic, and the thousands annually sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance and empiricism, are incontrovertible reasons for the introduction of the present Bill to

parliament, in order to avert those evils so long the opprobium of this country alone, and unknown in the rest of Europe.

XIII. *and lastly.*—That the perusal of the present Bill will incontestibly shew that its principles are directed solely to the public good, and influenced neither by selfish nor sinister motives, but for the purpose of overturning the reign of empiricism, and substituting the gratuitous advice and treatment of men of real professional science, in opposition to quacks and ignorant pretenders, who only ruin the health and fleece the pockets of the poor and afflicted, and frequently by the passport of empiricism send them prematurely to their graves.

PETITION

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of CHARLES DUNNE, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, subscribed by other Members of the same College.

Sheweth,

That the present charter, whereby the functions and privileges of the members of the Royal College of surgeons in London are regulated, so far from protecting regularly bred practitioners, often subject them to injury and insult, by the tolerance of ignorant, disqualified, and unworthy persons, to practise the art and science of surgery in the very heart of our metropolis; the College, though a chartered body, not being authorized to prevent any person whatever from practising surgery, although it possesses sufficient power to punish its own members for any breach of its bye-laws.

That for the better protection of the public and the community at large, against the immorality and the horrors daily committed by quack doctors, and to secure the medical profession in general in its rights and immunities, as well individually as collectively, it is become necessary (from the extraordinary inundation of audacious empirics, who, of late years, have so shamelessly assumed the professional character) that an application be made to parliament for arresting the progress of so much moral turpitude in a country, whose laws are supposed to flow spontaneously to meet anticipated wrong.

That, with a view to remedy, as much as possible, the baneful effects of medical quackery (practised by the very dregs of the people) it is amongst other things intended, that stations, after the plan of the *National Vaccine Establishment* shall be formed in various districts throughout the kingdom, where, three members at least, of the Royal Colleges of physicians and surgeons in London, shall attend every morning to give advice, without remuneration, to the indigent of both sexes, and that the institution for these and other reasons, equally cogent and irresistible, shall be intitled "THE ROYAL MEDICAL INSTITUTE." That one of the principal objects of this society be to preserve the dignity and just privileges of the respective classes of the physician, the surgeon, and the apothecary, and to support the credit of those persons who honourably demean themselves in their respective branches,—to promote useful and scientific communications, and fair and honourable practice—to prevent abuses in the profession—to punish pretenders to it, and to adopt such other measures as may be best calculated to insure respectability to its members, and advantage to the community.

That during ten years extensive practice on the Continent of Europe, your petitioner never heard of any quack doctor being tolerated for an instant; on the contrary, if it were found that even any member of the profession acted in any way derogatory to his professional character, he would be immediately handed over to justice, to be dealt with according to a specific law in the code Napoleon, for the punishment of medical men and impostors pretending to medical knowledge. Your petitioner further humbly begs leave to observe, that however speculation may be allowed to extend and ramify itself in other concerns of life, it should never be permitted in a well regulated government, in what regards the health and lives of our fellow creatures. Your petitioner has

every reason to believe that, at the most moderate calculation, several thousands of lives are annually sacrificed through the ignorance and improper treatment of quack doctors, not to say any thing of the numerous miserable objects of disease in our streets and in our hospitals, the effects of their deadly nostrums.

That the mal-practices of quack doctors are wisely guarded against in every country of Europe, except Britain; for no person (under pain of fine and imprisonment,) is allowed to take the charge of the sick, or even to direct the application of medicines, without having gone through the proper ordeals of examination as to his professional knowledge and acquirements. In England it is notorious that we have not only carpenters, tailors, bricklayers labourers, lead-pencil-makers, jews old clothes men, journeymen linen-drapers, and men of colour, but even women quacks, who practise their duplicities on the unwary and unthinking part of the public, by plundering all those who have the folly to approach them, whilst many are absolutely deprived of life by them, and others, who have the misfortune to escape death, are left to drag on a miserable existence with an entirely broken constitution for the remainder of their days. The baneful effects too of patent medicines, as they are called, deserve particular notice, the composition of which is formed in such a manner as to render their administration at all times dangerous, and but too often fraught with death; whereas on the Continent no medicines (similar to those with us called patent) are permitted to be sold, without first having been analyzed by the constituted chemical authorities, and duly examined by the respective faculties of medicine.

That if this plan were adopted in Britain, your petitioner humbly submits many valuable lives would be saved annually, and not one twentieth of the miserable objects would be found in our streets, or in our hospitals as at present; and this might be effected without lessening materially the revenue produced by such poisonous means:—for the reporters would naturally limit the use of such medicines, to those diseases only in which they would be useful, and they would also prevent any improper article being introduced into their composition.—Your petitioner, however, whilst he acknowledges that there are efficacious remedies for some few diseases, the *mode of whose operation* by which they cure is unknown, and such remedies are called specifics, as *arsenic and cinchona in intermittents* —*Mercury in* —— and *sulphur in psora, denies* that quack medicines not composed of these ingredients, and applied in those diseases just mentioned, have any specific effects, and even if they had, he humbly submits, nevertheless, that it would not only be repugnant to reason, but prejudicial to society, to give a latitude to the unlearned, ignorant, unworthy and unprincipled quack, to do mischief by those pretended specifics for different maladies, which have no foundation in fact: and whilst it shews the freedom of our laws in this respect, it affords an opportunity to those impostors to commit every species of fraud and depredation on the public, particularly to the ruin both of the pocket and constitution of the lower classes, always eager to flock for relief to those daring empirics, whose trade it is to hold out extraordinary promises to their dupes of their cures, which they know themselves totally unable to perform.

Your petitioner, therefore, most humbly prays that this Honourable House may, in its wisdom, rescue the English nation from the obloquy thrown upon it by foreigners of all nations, of being a nursery for those vipers denominated quack doctors, by making a law, rendering it a misdemeanour for any person (for the sake of gain or reward) to prescribe for the sick, without the necessary qualification of a diploma—and enable the present institute to prosecute to conviction disqualified persons so prescribing; or to adopt such other measures as may tend to eradicate this great evil, as in the superior judgment of this Honourable House may seem meet. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

161, *Regent-street*, *10th May*, 1821. CHARLES DUNNE

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser.

SIR,

As a subscriber to your publication, I beg your opinion upon my case, which is as follows: I have been a sufferer from that quack fellow, the author of the "*Ægis*," to such a degree, that I cannot sleep two hours together, in the twenty-four, owing to the most racking pains in the inferior part of the abdomen.—These pains came on since I used the medicine sent to me by Goss and Co.; and I do firmly believe that if I did not leave off the use of it I should now be in my grave. The pain shoots upward, through my back, with the greatest violence; and then a straining of the most distressing nature comes on, which generally lasts for half an hour—my stomach becomes sick, and then a profuse perspiration comes on which terminates the fit. The secretion of the kidneys is extremely scanty, and I believe the true seat of my disease. A. M.

*** This case is one of the many which arise from Goss and Co.'s stimulating diuretics.—The writer should use warm baths, and occasionally take castor oil. (ED.)

To the Editor of the Medical Adviser

MR. EDITOR,

Any farther refutation of that heavenly quack, Hohenlohe's humbugs, would be useless, after the excellent one of Dr. Crampton. But observing in a catholic periodical publication, an account of another stupendous miracle, said to have been performed in America, on a woman afflicted with a "most hideous cancer, both inward and outward, preying on her frame in such a manner, that it literally reduced her whole system to a state of perfect corruption and putrefaction." It is surprising the believers in this trickery do not relate the cases wherein he fails; one of which I was an eye witness of. About two years ago I was requested by a friend to attend the performance of a miracle on a poor woman (all women you perceive), the wife of a watch-maker, near Finsbury-square, afflicted with a cancer in the womb. I accordingly attended at the chapel in Moorfields, on a severe cold morning, in the month of February. Mass was said, and the holy viaticum taken by the poor sufferer, who appeared merely kept alive by her enthusiastic expectations of relief, which never came. She being taken home in the same state as she came; and, on inquiry, I found she died about six weeks after.

I am, &c.

W. M.—a constant reader.

P.S. In your shew up, I trust you will not forget "*truth and justice*," alias Dr. Peede, the breaker in of colts; this fellow sent a victim of his to a friend of mine, a surgeon in Grey's-inn-lane, requesting the said surgeon to pass the *cat-eater* on him, he having got a stricture by the ignorant use of astringent injections given him by this quack.

Clerkenwell, June 2, 1824.



MEDICAL TALK OF THE DAY

Cravats.—The hot weather is now set in. Our readers may recollect, that in a former number, we gave our opinions upon the injurious effects of *cravats* in producing apoplexy; and, also shewed that several deaths occurred in the island of St. Christopher's, amongst the army, from wearing hard leather stocks. We feel it our duty to remind our readers of this point. Our lamented Lord Byron, who was as powerful a philosopher as he was a poet, justly opposed the practice of wearing cravats, although, perhaps, not upon a medical view of the subject; yet it shews that there are other arguments, as well as *medical*, against the practice. What is the first act of any common passenger would do to assist a person that had fallen down in a fit?

—Why, to pull off his cravat. Does it not argue, therefore, that there exists an instinctive feeling, that the cravat is opposed to the recovery of the man? We again earnestly recommend the public to use loose cravats, particularly in hot weather.

Hydrophobia.—Another fatal case of this malady is recorded in the Stockport Advertiser. We formerly recommended the introduction of water into the stomach by the syringe. Why is it not tried? Good God, is it not worth trying? Let any physiologist in England examine the principle, and they must approve of it. We sincerely hope, that another case will not be allowed to pass, without giving this remedy a fair trial.

The Quacks.—A brace of pistols have been purchased by one of the *ornaments* of our quack corner, to blow our brains out!!—Murder is the quack's trade.

Dr. Eady.—This fellow is in the bench. We had been informed, that his retirement was in St. Luke's. We are now convinced that he is more rogue than madman.

A man killed by a Quack.—At Lisson Grove, a man being afflicted with a cutaneous disorder, advised with an irregular practitioner of physic, who recommended him to take a certain quantity of a mineral preparation, and lime water. He had not swallowed the deleterious ingredient a minute before he suffered the most violent pain in the stomach, the coat of which was destroyed; and after enduring the most horrid torture he expired. The name of the quack, who gave the deceased the recipe, could not be obtained. "The inquest returned a verdict — That he was poisoned by taking a quantity of mercury, which was administered to him improperly and ignorantly by some person unknown, as a cure for his disorder."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. R. W. may take a scruple of cream of tartar every second day. If this remedy do not succeed in a fortnight, we recommend him to apply to Mr. Hollan, who has directed his attention particularly to "diseases of the skin."

Mr. Newbolt's letter about Friedburg is under consideration.

W. T. R. should follow the directions laid down in page 338, Medical Adviser, (on indigestion) for one month. His news of the country quacks will be acceptable.

G. H.'s kidneys are affected. Let him take one grain of digitalis, and two of calomel, every fourth day, for a fortnight.

Let X. A. Z. send an address.

B. No.

B. J. shall be attended to.

C. H. H. Blue-pill is composed of quicksilver and conserve of roses.

Volo should rest—if he send an address he shall have advice upon his daughter's case.

A. 3. shall have a communication from us if he tells us where to address him.

A. B. should take a spoonful of the decoction of bark, acidulated with sulphuric acid, once a day.

A youth of twenty must send an address.

Many Correspondents are postponed.

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